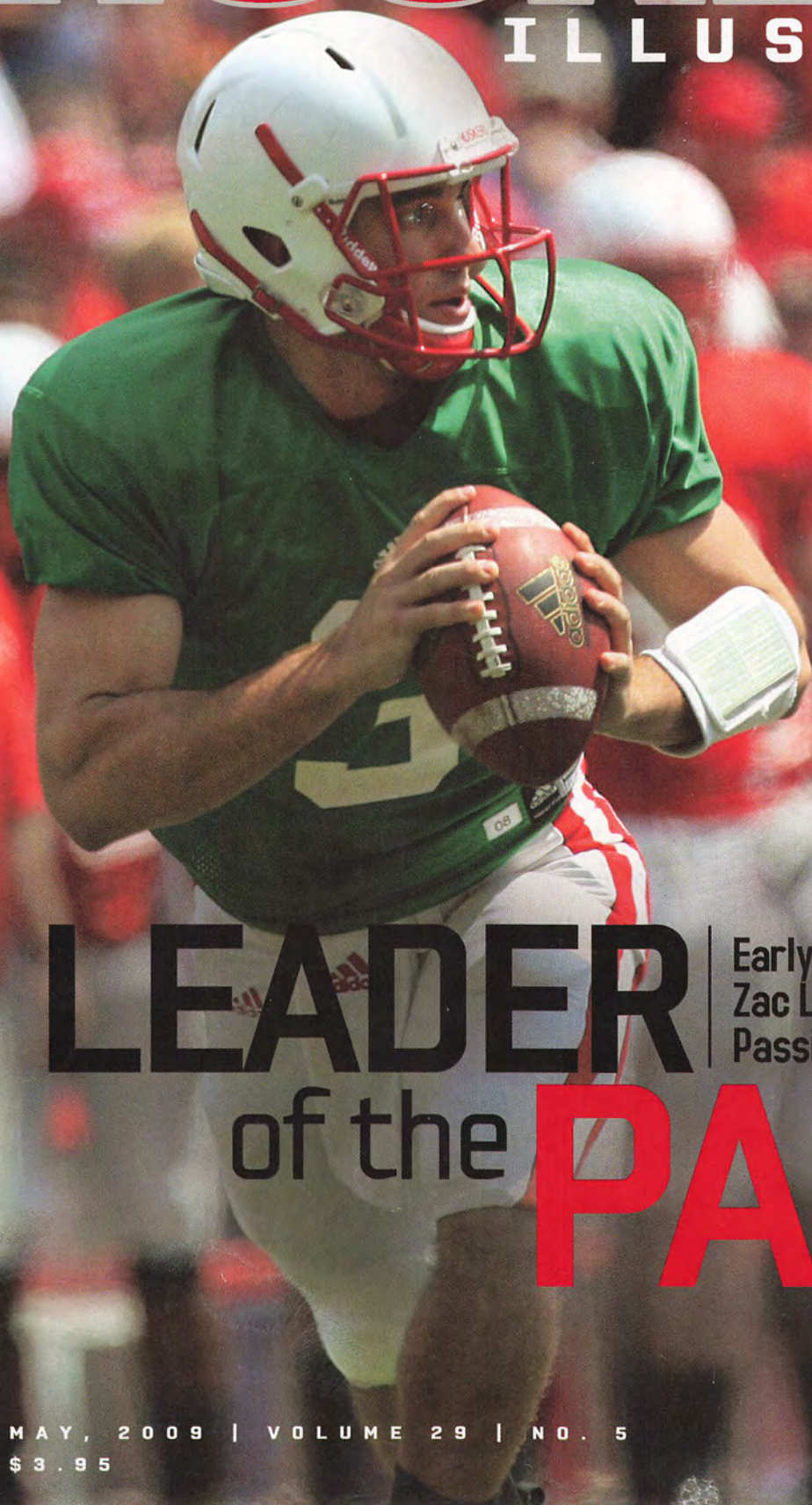


SPRING GAME RECAP

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

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The 2009 Football Yearbook/500th Edition will be mailed in early June.
Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

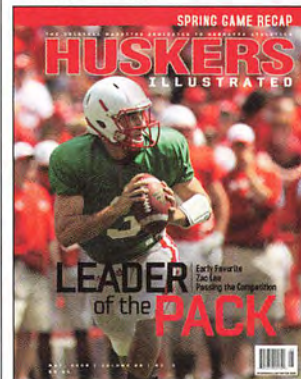
HUSKERS

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ON THE COVER

Zac Lee was the subject of much speculation and interest during the spring football season. The leading candidate to take over the starting QB job didn't disappoint impressing fans with his Spring Game performance.

Photo by Scott Bruhn



SURVIVING SPRING

Spring games don't mean much, but can mean everything



SPRING FOOTBALL in Nebraska is anything except routine.

All the talk and hype makes it difficult to differentiate preseason drills from spring practices.

Thirsty after suffering through a three-month football drought, Husker fans create a traffic jam around the water cooler in April, speculating and predicting the Huskers' fate for the 2009 football season.

Attend any spring practice and you'll see Bo Pelini surrounded by a throng of reporters. Turn on the television and you can watch a detailed practice report during the evening news. For three straight weeks, all other sports are interrupted as reporters detail the Huskers' progress for a season that is four months from kickoff.

Because of the attention Nebraska's 15 spring practices receives, it's easy to place too much emphasis on the spring game. Fans (and reporters) can get too excited about how players look stronger and faster.

This spring's biggest story was the development of quarterback Zac Lee as the caretaker of the Husker offense. He didn't disappoint in the spring game, completing 15-of-18 passes for 214 yards and three touchdowns. Fans were instantly raving on the message boards about his success.

And while Lee impressed and others dazzled, unfortunately it means little in the scheme of the 2009 season. Players will still need to spend countless hours in

the weight room, classroom and film room just to prepare for the Sept. 5 opener against Florida Atlantic.

But this spring season has a number of positives in addition to the individual spring performances.

Young players get additional reps in practice. Inexperienced players see action in a game environment.

But, perhaps, the biggest positive is that Nebraska survived spring relatively injury-free. Kody Spano suffered the most significant injury, but Pelini said the redshirted freshman quarterback should be throwing this summer and practicing in the fall.

That wasn't the case in the 1984 Spring Game when All-Big Eight linebacker Mike Knox blew out his left knee and was forced to miss the entire season.

Most fans didn't even notice the injury during the exhibition game.

As detailed in *Huskers Illustrated*, Knox wanted it that way.

"I wanted to get off incognito," Knox said in the training room. "I walked off on my own. Nobody had to take me off. Nobody ever has, and nobody ever will."

Knox underwent two hours of surgery the next day.

That's the kind of spring coverage nobody wants to read. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS
ILLUSTRATED
MAY 2009 • VOLUME 29 • NO. 5

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NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates, Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December, except open football dates. Single issue cost \$3.95 (yearbook \$9.95); subscription rate for one year (19 issues) is \$51.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$19 per year. Foreign postage is \$34.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Community Newspapers, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, KY, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Huskers Illustrated*, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.

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For subscription inquiries, mail to *Huskers Illustrated*, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Allow four to six weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.

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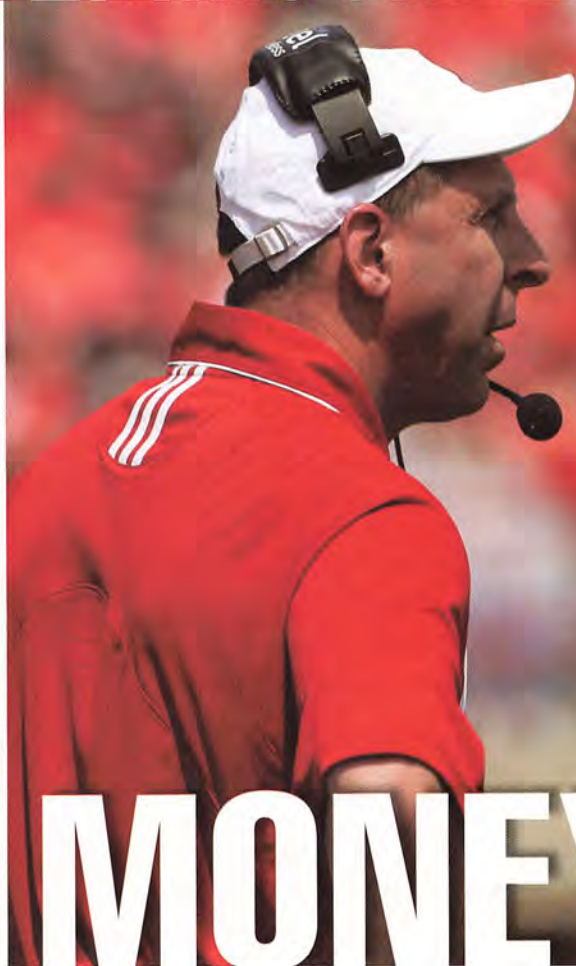
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BIG 12 FOOTBALL SALARIES*

Bob Stoops, Oklahoma	\$3.8 million
Mack Brown, Texas	\$2.91 million
Mike Leach, Texas Tech	\$2.54 million
Gary Pinkel, Missouri	\$2.3 million
Mark Mangino, Kansas	\$2.3 million
Mike Gundy, Oklahoma State	\$2.2 million
BO PELINI	\$1.851 million
Bill Snyder, Kansas State	\$1.8 million
Art Briles, Baylor	\$1.8 million
Mike Sherman, Texas A&M	\$1.8 million
Paul Rhoads, Iowa State	\$1.15 million
Dan Hawkins, Colorado	\$935,000

*Lincoln Journal Star

MONEY GAME

Consider that the Nebraska athletic department's budget for the current academic year is just over \$75 million.

Consider that the department will meet its budget, finish in the black. And consider that football produces about 85 percent of the department's revenue.

Now consider what would happen if interest in the football program declined to the point that the Cornhuskers' NCAA-record sellout streak, which will reach 300 when Louisiana-Lafayette comes to Memorial Stadium on Sept. 26, were to end. You can do the accounting math.

"Our football program being successful is vitally important to our athletic department, our university and ultimately to the state of Nebraska," Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE** said in a late-March release, announcing a significant raise for coach **BO PELINI** as well as for his staff.

"It is important that our coaches are fairly

compensated and we remain competitive in the conference," said Osborne. "Bo has put an outstanding staff together, and we would like to keep them. I know first-hand that continuity on your coaching staff can provide a big advantage."

Pelini received a 68-percent raise, from \$1.1 million to \$1.851 million annually. Also, the contract he signed on Dec. 2, 2007 was extended one year and will now run through Feb. 28, 2014.

The contract makes Pelini the highest-paid coach in Cornhusker history. His predecessor, **BILL CALLAHAN**, was one year into a five-year, \$1.75 million contract before being fired.

According to the release, Pelini's salary increase places him sixth among Big 12 football coaches. He had been 11th. However, Oklahoma State's **MIKE GUNDY** had yet to sign a seven-year contract worth \$2.2 million annually that would make him sixth on the list and Pelini seventh.

"When you compare Bo's performance and experience with other coaches, he was certainly deserving of a significant salary increase," Osborne said. "We made good progress in one year under Bo's leadership and we are confident he has our program moving in the right direction."

Pelini was just the fourth football coach to win nine games in his first season at Nebraska. The others were Osborne (1973), **FRANK SOLICH** (1998) and **BOB DEVANEY** (1962).

Pelini's 9-4 record was the best among first-time head coaches in the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2008, and nine victories were tied for the most among 18 coaches in the first year at their schools.

"Working for Coach Osborne is a great situation, and as I said when I was hired, it is an honor to be here at Nebraska as head coach," Pelini said in the release. "I hope to be in this position for a long time and help get this program back to the top of college football."



YOUTH EXPERIENCE

An estimated 450 youngsters participated in the annual Husker Youth Experience on the first Saturday of spring drills. That was also the first day the Cornhuskers practiced in pads.

Coach **BO PELINI** addressed the youngsters (8-years-old to 8th grade) after they went through fundamental drills with players and coaches. Then they set about collecting autographs and taking pictures. Freshman quarterback **CODY GREEN** and junior linebacker **BLAKE LAWRENCE** were the last players to work their way through the autograph seekers and leave the field at the Hawks Championship Center.

COMPARISON, JUST FOR FUN

BO PELINI was rewarded with a substantial pay raise following Nebraska's success in his first season as head coach. Nearly 50 years ago, **BOB DEVANEY** was similarly rewarded after directing the Cornhuskers to a 9-2 record and Gotham bowl victory in his first season (1962).

Devaney was given a \$2,000 raise, increasing his annual salary to \$19,000. In addition, boosters committed to raising money for a \$200,000 paid-up life insurance policy for him.

A year later, after Nebraska went 9-1 in the regular season, the *Miami Herald* reported that Miami University was interested in Devaney as successor to Hurricanes coach **ANDY GUSTAFSON**, who was moving from the field to the athletic director's office. The reports followed Devaney's visit to Miami to make arrangements for the Cornhuskers' Orange Bowl game against Auburn on New Year's Day.

The *Miami Herald* reported that Miami's offer to Devaney might be as much as \$25,000.

Three weeks later, Devaney announced he had asked that his name be removed from consideration. He also indicated that Miami had made no offer. Even so, Nebraska increased his annual salary another \$2,000, to \$21,000 – with four years remaining on a five-year contract.

In addition, boosters renewed efforts to raise money to pay off the premiums on the life insurance policy, which had been reduced to \$100,000 because of a lag in donations.

Devaney's full-time assistants also received raises in 1963: Jim Ross - \$11,900 (increase from \$10,900); Mike Corgan - \$11,900 (\$10,900); Carl Selmer - \$11,900 (\$10,900); John Melton - \$11,600 (\$10,100); George Kelly - \$11,600 (\$9,800) and Clete Fischer - \$11,600 (\$9,800).

SIDELINES



SUH ON WATCH LIST

Senior defensive tackle

NDAMUKONG SUH is among 42 players, including seven from the Big 12, named to the 2009 Lott Trophy Watch List. The Lott Trophy, presented to college football's defensive "IMPACT" player of the year, is named for Hall of Famer **RONNIE LOTT**.

IMPACT stands for integrity, maturity, performance, academics, community and tenacity.

The other Big 12 players on the watch list are: Brian Duncan, linebacker, Texas Tech; Gerald McCoy, defensive tackle, Oklahoma; Roddrick Muckelroy, linebacker, Texas; Joe Pawelek, linebacker, Baylor; Darrell Stuckey, defensive back, Kansas; and Sean Weatherspoon, linebacker, Missouri.

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What's in a number?

When **LATRAVIS WASHINGTON** moved from linebacker to quarterback, he had to change jersey numbers. The junior from Bradenton, Fla., wore No. 7 last season, the same as quarterback **KODY SPANO**. So Washington was assigned a No. 15 no-contact green adidas jersey.

He didn't ask for the number, he said following the first practice.

Quarterback, Bradenton, No. 15 ...

"I was like, 'Oh, God, **TOMMIE FRAZIER**,'" he said.

CODY GREEN's jersey number, 17, was the same as his age during spring practice. The freshman quarterback from Dayton, Texas, won't celebrate his 18th birthday until June 2.

OFF-LIMITS TO REPORTERS

Typically, spring has been a time when reporters seek out young players for interviews. But you wouldn't have read stories with quotes from **CODY GREEN**, **DEJON GOMES** or **ANTONIO BELL**, nor with first-year players who redshirted last season, this spring – except for the first day, when redshirted freshmen **KODY SPANO** and **WILL COMPTON** were among those interviewed.

By the next practice coach **BO PELINI** had clarified his policy on interviews. Until a player sees action, he's off-limits. Offensive tackle **DEREK MEYER** was an exception because he's a senior.

SIDELINES



COACHES CLINIC

BARRY ALVAREZ and **SONNY LUBICK** were featured speakers at Nebraska's spring coaches clinic, which drew an estimated 800 coaches. Alvarez, who played at Nebraska (1965-67), is the athletic director at Wisconsin, where he was head coach for 16 seasons. The Badgers were 118-73-4 under Alvarez. Lubick compiled a 108-74 record in 15 seasons as head coach at Colorado State.

Former Cornhusker player and coach **FRANK SOLICH** was asked to speak at the clinic as well, according to the *Lincoln Journal Star*, but was unable to because of spring drills at Ohio. He told Steven M. Sipple that there were "100 reasons" he would have liked to speak at the clinic.

Solich is preparing for his fifth season as head coach at Ohio.



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Spring games different back in the day

Among **TOM OSBORNE**'s first orders of business as Nebraska's athletic director was bringing back former football players alienated by the previous administration and coaching staff. He reached out to the program's alums because he considered their support essential to restoring tradition.

The alums weren't particularly supportive of the 1956 team, however, given the results of the Spring Game. The Spring Game wasn't an intrasquad scrimmage then. Rather it matched coach **PETE ELLIOTT**'s varsity against a team of former players. And the former players won, 14-0.

Rain dampened a small Memorial Stadium crowd (estimated at 5,000), figuratively as well as literally. Prospects for the upcoming season weren't bright for a team losing to its alums.

The varsity fumbled 11 times, losing eight, and the closest it got to the alums' end zone was the 27-yard line. **JOHNNY BORDOGNA** and **REX FISCHER** scored the alum touchdowns.

DON BRYANT, sports editor of *The Lincoln Star* at the time, reported that "to a man, the oldtimers insisted it was their superior physical condition which made victory possible."

His story included a quote from the alums' locker room: "Who's got a cigarette?"

Nebraska's first Spring Game was played in 1950, **BILL GLASSFORD**'s (left) second year as coach. The previous year, he had concluded six weeks of spring practice, from March 1 to mid-April,

with a Wednesday afternoon intrasquad scrimmage.

Even though Glassford's first team had finished with a 4-5 record, fans were enthusiastic about the 1950 season, in part because of the anticipated varsity debut of Grand Island, Neb., sophomore **BOBBY REYNOLDS**. Season-ticket demand was high, with a reported 13,600 to 14,000 sold by the end of spring practice. So a game matching varsity and alums was scheduled as the centerpiece of an All-Sports Day, intended to generate revenue for the athletic department.

The alumni team was a heavy underdog, according to Lincoln newspapers. But on the day before Easter, a raw afternoon, the teams played to a 13-13 tie, also before a crowd estimated at 5,000. The varsity blocked what would have been the winning extra-point kick in the fourth quarter. **ED WEIR**, wearing street clothes and a letter jacket, attempted the kick.

Brothers **CLETE FISCHER** and **KEN FISCHER** scored the alum touchdowns.

Weir's place-kicking attire notwithstanding, the participants took the game seriously. There were "two flares of fisticuffs," according to a Lincoln newspaper account.

Despite the Spring Game tie, optimism surrounding Glassford's 1950 team was justified. Reynolds led the nation in scoring, earned All-America recognition and finished fifth in voting for the Heisman Trophy for a team with a 6-2-1 record and No. 17 ranking in the final Associated Press poll.

Nine of Nebraska's first 11 Spring Games matched the varsity and alumni, a common practice at other schools as well. In his final two years, 1954 and 1955, Glassford, beleaguered by a player revolt, concluded spring practice with intrasquad scrimmages at Memorial Stadium.

The varsity-alum Spring Games were competitive, for the most part, because the alumni teams were composed of players who had recently completed their eligibility – **CLETE FISCHER** was preparing for a second season with the NFL's New York Giants in the spring of 1950.

The reluctance of NFL teams to allow their players to participate in such events as well as insurance considerations contributed to the demise of the varsity-alumni games.



In addition, intrasquad scrimmages allowed coaches to evaluate lower-unit players. So **BOB DEVANEY** changed the format in his first spring, in 1962. And it has been that way since.

Oh yes, the 1956 team, the only one to lose to the varsity, went 4-6, including a 3-3 record in the Big Seven Conference. Its only shutout loss was against Colorado (16-0).

In the spring of 1957, **BILL JENNINGS** was the head coach, promoted from assistant following Elliott's departure for California.

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PRE-GAME RECOGNITION

Members of the 12th annual Brook Berringer Citizenship Team were introduced prior to the spring game, including five-time honoree **JAKE WESCH**, a senior in 2008.

The others were four-time honoree **DAN TITCHENER**, three-time honoree **TODD PETERSON**, two-time honorees **BLAKE LAWRENCE** and **TYLER WORTMAN**, and first-time honorees **ANTHONY BLUE**, **DAN GLASSMAN**, **ALEX HENERY**, **MARCEL JONES**, **ADI KUNALIC**, **MARCUS MENDOZA** and **LANCE THORELL**.

Also, senior defensive back **MATT O'HANLON** received the third annual Cletus Fischer Endowed Scholarship, presented to a Cornhusker football player "who has demonstrated a high level of athletic and academic achievement and intends to pursue a career as a high school or college coach."

PRIORITIES

The most requested player for interviews following the first practice of the spring? Junior quarterback **ZAC LEE**, of course. But Lee didn't meet with reporters until after the second practice because he had to get to a test. "School comes first, right?" he said.

He was asked if he was ready for the media attention.

"Of course, this is fun," he said. "I like talking to you guys. Like I said, this is why

you come to a place like this. You want to be in the spotlight. You want to be the guy."

GOOD ROLE MODEL

ZAC LEE couldn't have a better model of perseverance than his predecessor, **JOE GANZ**. And he knows comparisons to Ganz are inevitable. But "we're two different guys," said Lee. "We might have some similarities, but we're different players. You know, Joe has taught me a lot, though, just using this offense, not having to force things and just taking what the defense gives you.

"That's why Joe was so successful because he didn't force a lot of stuff."



SIDELINES



CHRISTENSEN

COMING ALONG

Andy Christensen, who returned to the team last September but didn't see action following a suspension, worked his way into the mix at guard during the spring. The sixth-year senior from Bennington, Neb., started nine games in 2006 and 2007.

JET LAG

BO PELINI had a busy first Saturday of spring practice. After the Cornhuskers' 2 1/2-hour morning workout, he flew to Los Angeles, at the invitation of USC coach **PETE CARROLL**, to be a featured speaker for the Trojans' coaches clinic that night.

Though he might have preferred to stay and watch film of the day's practice, southern California is "a big recruiting base for us right now, to be out there in front of all those coaches... they get to know me better. I get to know them better. It's a positive," Pelini said.

Wince Morris

Returning to his passion

WINCE MORRIS, Nebraska assistant director of football operations, played quarterback for Miami University in Ohio in the 1990s before graduating in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in sociology-criminal justice.

He spent four years as a litigation paralegal at a Cincinnati law firm. He later worked in private business. At one point, he said, he was on the verge of attending law school.

All the while, working in football tugged at him.

"With all of the positive influences that coaches had on me throughout my life and how they helped develop me as a person, I always felt like I wanted to give back to younger athletes," said the 34-year-old native of Oxford, Ohio, a town of 22,000 in which Miami University is located.

Morris was recruited to play for Miami of Ohio by current Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, a former RedHawk assistant. What's more, it was Watson who contacted Morris about coming to Nebraska in 2006 to work as a football operations assistant.

"I consider Coach Watson pretty much a father of mine," said Morris, whose biological father died when Wince was 10.

This past October, Morris was promoted to NU assistant director of football operations. He plays a critical role in coordinating team travel, which involves making hotel accommodations, assigning roommates and helping organize team outings.

"Really, it's a lot of behind-the-scenes, day-to-day operations," Morris said. "I

also work with our life-skills department to ensure that our players are doing things outside of football. I tell our guys they have to make sure they're preparing themselves for life after football."

Morris, raised in a family that included 10 older sisters, said he thinks athletes nowadays face a greater amount of peer pressure and other challenges while growing up.

"There are a lot of different things that kids have access to," he said. "I think one of the things athletics does is help you stay on schedule. Football is a great platform for athletes to accomplish a lot of great things in life."

As for his job at Nebraska, "Sometimes I pinch myself, asking, 'Am I really here?' I feel very blessed."



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Matt Holt

6-0, 200, Sophomore, Linebacker, Lee's Summit, Mo.

HI: What kind of fan following are you developing back home in Lee's Summit, Mo.?

HOLT: There are fans, but they're mostly Missouri fans back where I come from. As far as the area, nobody likes Nebraska.

HI: What had to happen for you to start at middle linebacker against Texas Tech last year?

HOLT: Going into the Missouri game, I think Cody (Glenn) and Phil (Dillard) got kind of banged up and I played quite a bit against Missouri on defense. Then going into Texas Tech that week, I started off as No. 2 and by the end of the week the coaches put me in at No. 1 because Phil and Cody were hurt. What (the Red Raiders) did was perfect for me because I'm more of a speed linebacker.

HI: You were a running back in high school. Would you return to offense if you could?

HOLT: I'd stick to defense at this level. High school running back is fun because everybody sucks. But at this level, I would definitely prefer defense. I just like to hit people. But kickoffs are my favorite part of the whole game. My favorite kickoff moment came against New Mexico State. I didn't make the tackle, but I threw the lead guy blocking into the guy with the ball and pushed him out of bounds at like the 10-yard line.

HI: What would learning the Nebraska defense be like if it were a class?

HOLT: It would be the one class you took – it would be all 12 credit hours. It just takes time more than anything. It's real complicated, but once you get a hold of it, it's pretty easy. There are reasons for everything that happens.

HI: Where do you see yourself after college?

HOLT: I plan on getting my master's in business. I came in and was going to do engineering, but that didn't work too well with football, time-wise. I plan on getting my master's in finance when I leave. I'd like to go somewhere international and eventually be a CFO of some company.

HI: What's the worst movie you've seen lately?

HOLT: It was probably 'Lakeview Terrace' with Samuel L. Jackson. That was horrible. The whole movie just made me mad. We actually watched that as one of our movies before a game last year. I couldn't wait to leave.

HI: What's the biggest myth you hear about playing college football?

HOLT: I think size is overrated. If you have good reaction time and speed, then anybody can play. I'm basically a safety playing linebacker, and it wasn't that big of a jump for me from high school to college; it really wasn't. With good reactions and speed and knowing what you're doing, that takes up 90 percent of what you need.

HI: What are your biggest talents outside of football?

HOLT: Baseball and soccer are my two best sports – better than football. I played on a 12-and-under national team for soccer when I was a kid. Soccer was probably my best sport growing up, but when I got to high school I had to pick football or soccer. I picked football because when I went to Europe and saw what soccer was like over there and I came back here, I was like 'This is a joke compared to what they do over there.' Their 12-year-old teams could beat most high school teams here. Also, my dad played football in high school and college so I always knew I was going to play football.

HI: Why wear No. 35 for your jersey number?

HOLT: I was No. 34 in high school and Cody Glenn already had it. This was the closest I could get. The 34 was just the number I always had growing up. Walter Payton had No. 34 and he's one of my favorite guys.

HI: How did you catch on at Nebraska?

HOLT: I had zero recruiting experience. I was overlooked completely by everybody. I had mostly D-IAA and D-II offers. Then (NU defensive coordinator Carl Pelini) called me the night before signing day, I talked to him and ended up walking on here. I've probably had as much playing time here as I would have at a D-IAA or D-II school, so I don't regret my decision. I expected to come in, redshirt and maybe this year start working at the special teams.



Wince Morris

Returning to his passion

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Derek Meyer - Campbell, NE



The conversation went like this, according to Derek Meyer. As a youngster, he and his dad were at Memorial Stadium, watching the Cornhuskers play football. His parents have had season tickets since 1994, he said, and he got to attend two or

three games a season. Anyway, at one of those games, "I can remember Dad saying, 'Oh, that would be cool to have this little guy out there playing some day.' You know, when you're a little kid, you're like, 'Oh yeah, that'd be cool,'" Meyer said.

"But who knows if that will ever happen?"

It has happened for him, or it will come fall. Years later, including two at Kansas State, Meyer is a Cornhusker. He transferred and sat out last season. And he gave up another season of eligibility by transferring within the Big 12. Had he transferred to San Diego State – as originally planned – he would have two seasons of eligibility remaining instead of one. And he would have had a scholarship.

So even though he's paying his own way, "to have the chance to come play here, it's just unreal," he said. "If I don't play one snap, it's going to be worth having the 'N' on the side of my helmet."

Things were different at Nebraska when he graduated high school. Bill Callahan was the coach, and Meyer didn't feel comfortable with the situation. So he accepted a scholarship from Kansas State. But Bill Snyder was replaced by Ron Prince and "things just kind of turned south" for him.

When Bo Pelini was hired, "I think that was just a sign that this was where I was supposed to be, and things were supposed to happen this way," said Meyer.

"It's been a really weird road. But I'm glad I'm here." **N**

DEREK MEYER

Hometown: Campbell, Neb.

County: Franklin

Population: 343

Distance from Lincoln: 145 miles

Derek Meyer on his being at Nebraska: "It kind of helps put Campbell on the map, I think. It says even eight-man football players can make it to the big time if they work hard enough. It doesn't have to be these big Class A, Class B schools. Even the smaller guys get a chance if you work hard enough. It's kind of cool not only for me and my family but also for the whole community."



SIDELINES



WELCOME BACK ADAM

ADAM CARRIKER, a two-year NFL veteran, was among many former Cornhuskers on-hand for the spring game. Carriker, who has started 25 games in the defensive line for the St. Louis Rams, signed autographs at the Husker Nation Pavilion prior to the game.



TWEET MUCH?

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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Unlikely Husker looking for fourth letter

CONSIDER YOURSELF a professional Husker trivia nut if you know this one off the top of your head.

What fraternity does Wes Cammack belong to along with teammates Ndamukong Suh, Jacob Hickman, Matt O'Hanlon, Rickey Thenarse, Phillip Dillard, Menelik Holt and Barry Turner?

That's Wes Cammack, the fifth-year senior walk-on wide receiver who has one career reception and has never started—the other seven have.

"It would probably surprise me, too," Cammack said upon hearing he's among that select group of current Huskers to have earned three letters.

His story is one of the unlikelyst you'll read about with these 2009 Huskers but also one of the most important regarding a viable walk-on program.

"You don't understand unless you actually grow up here, I don't think," said Cammack, who starred at Tri County High (located near DeWitt in southeastern Nebraska). Taking ownership in having a walk-on program that produces game-day caliber players is "a good responsibility because we definitely have the greatest fans in the nation."

Cammack enters his final season expecting to once again contribute on kickoff coverage (last year he made nine tackles) and also fill in from time to time on the punt return unit.

But with the Huskers losing Nate Swift and Todd Peterson, players who rank in the top four at Nebraska in career receptions, Cammack also has a chance to crack the

rotation at wide receiver.

It's an amazing feat just for him to be in that position, and one he undoubtedly helped by catching a 40-yard touchdown pass from Zac Lee in the Spring Game.

Consider that the highlight video Cammack sent Nebraska barely registered with the previous coaching staff. Cammack was promised only that he could participate in a workout after school had started.

Duke and Kansas had given him more attention as a recruited walk-on, but Cammack didn't get accepted into Duke. "Probably a good thing," he said. "I don't think I would've fit in there being a farm kid." And Kansas didn't offer him much academic aid. So he took a Regents scholarship and headed to Lincoln.

But just in case things didn't go well at the workout, he purchased season football tickets and even used them for the first couple games.

"They had the tryout after the second game, then I had to wait a week and a half," Cammack said. "I finally showed up at the (football) office and asked 'Do you guys know? Are you going to keep me or not?' It was good to stay after them because they're in the middle of the fall season and don't really have time for somebody who wants to walk on."

Because he did, Cammack's next dilemma became what to do with his tickets?

"I tried to sell them, (but) I gave them to somebody," he said.

During his early time with the Huskers, the 5-foot-11 Cammack thought he might be

put at defensive back because he didn't see himself being fast enough to play receiver. He had shown plenty of versatility in high school, however, with enough speed to rush for more than 1,200 yards as a senior and the kind of stamina to win state track titles in the 800 and 1,600.

No doubt, that combination helped his cause to make a mark with the Huskers. Even more so was the attitude he took. Special teams became the route that allowed him to play in 25 of 26 games over the past two seasons. Last year, he also made his only reception, though it's not like the moment is etched in his mind.

"Was it Western Michigan? No, it was the third game (against New Mexico State)," Cammack said. "I think Coach (Shawn) Watson was (trying to get me a reception). It was a little, quick 5-yard out. We ran the play two times in a row."

An hour after the spring game had ended, Cammack, having waited patiently for an interview request, was still speaking with a reporter when secondary coach Marvin Sanders walked by and, without breaking stride, looked his way and muttered "Lucky catch!"

There was a chuckle from the walk-on, as if he'd understood the comment was based on admiration.

"I probably knew special teams would be a bigger niche for me (this spring)," Cammack said. "But trying to work into the rotation as somebody they know they can put in and go to at times—I'm trying to do that every day in practice. So we'll see how fall camp goes." **N**



Matt Holt

6-0, 200, Sophomore, Linebacker, Lee's Summit, Mo.

HI: What kind of fan following are you developing back home in Lee's Summit, Mo.?

HOLT: There are fans, but they're mostly Missouri fans back where I come from. As far as the area, nobody likes Nebraska.

HI: What had to happen for you to start at middle linebacker against Texas Tech last year?

HOLT: Going into the Missouri game, I think Cody (Glenn) and Phil (Dillard) got kind of banged up and I played quite a bit against Missouri on defense. Then going into Texas Tech that week, I started off as No. 2 and by the end of the week the coaches put me in at No. 1 because Phil and Cody were hurt. What (the Red Raiders) did was perfect for me because I'm more of a speed linebacker.

HI: You were a running back in high school. Would you return to offense if you could?

HOLT: I'd stick to defense at this level. High school running back is fun because everybody sucks. But at this level, I would definitely prefer defense. I just like to hit people. But kickoffs are my favorite part of the whole game. My favorite kickoff moment came against New Mexico State. I didn't make the tackle, but I threw the lead guy blocking into the guy with the ball and pushed him out of bounds at like the 10-yard line.

HI: What would learning the Nebraska defense be like if it were a class?

HOLT: It would be the one class you took – it would be all 12 credit hours. It just takes time more than anything. It's real complicated, but once you get a hold of it, it's pretty easy. There are reasons for everything that happens.

HI: Where do you see yourself after college?

HOLT: I plan on getting my master's in business. I came in and was going to do engineering, but that didn't work too well with football, time-wise. I plan on getting my master's in finance when I leave. I'd like to go somewhere international and eventually be a CFO of some company.

HI: What's the worst movie you've seen lately?

HOLT: It was probably 'Lakeview Terrace' with Samuel L. Jackson. That was horrible. The whole movie just made me mad. We actually watched that as one of our movies before a game last year. I couldn't wait to leave.

HI: What's the biggest myth you hear about playing college football?

HOLT: I think size is overrated. If you have good reaction time and speed, then anybody can play. I'm basically a safety playing linebacker, and it wasn't that big of a jump for me from high school to college; it really wasn't. With good reactions and speed and knowing what you're doing, that takes up 90 percent of what you need.

HI: What are your biggest talents outside of football?

HOLT: Baseball and soccer are my two best sports – better than football. I played on a 12-and-under national team for soccer when I was a kid. Soccer was probably my best sport growing up, but when I got to high school I had to pick football or soccer. I picked football because when I went to Europe and saw what soccer was like over there and I came back here, I was like "This is a joke compared to what they do over there." Their 12-year-old teams could beat most high school teams here. Also, my dad played football in high school and college so I always knew I was going to play football.

HI: Why wear No. 35 for your jersey number?

HOLT: I was No. 34 in high school and Cody Glenn already had it. This was the closest I could get. The 34 was just the number I always had growing up. Walter Payton had No. 34 and he's one of my favorite guys.

HI: How did you catch on at Nebraska?

HOLT: I had zero recruiting experience. I was overlooked completely by everybody. I had mostly D-IAA and D-II offers. Then (NU defensive coordinator Carl Pelini) called me the night before signing day, I talked to him and ended up walking on here. I've probably had as much playing time here as I would have at a D-IAA or D-II school, so I don't regret my decision. I expected to come in, redshirt and maybe this year start working at the special teams.



Dan Schneiss

Still giving back after all these years

GO BACK ALMOST 39 years and look at the cover of the Sept. 26, 1970, official program for the Nebraska-Army football game.

If you didn't know better, you'd think the two captains who flanked Nebraska coach Bob Devaney on his first national championship team were choirboys.

Dan Schneiss and Jerry Murtaugh looked that sweet and that innocent. Let the record show, however, that neither Schneiss nor Murtaugh was sweet. Nor was either innocent.

A fullback who specialized in delivering crushing blocks for Joe Orduna and Jeff Kinney, Schneiss had a personality to match his intensely physical style. Because he was so strong, his teammates nicknamed him "Baby Bull." In all of his carries, even deep into his career, he never lost a yard with the football in his hands.

Schneiss was that determined then, and he's even more determined now in a quieter, much more mellow way.

Schneiss, you see, is still doing what he's been doing since a tryout for the Patriots didn't work out in pro football. That missed opportunity, in effect, forced him to concentrate on completing his degree, so he could teach and coach – lifelong loves for the West Bend, Wis., native.

"I lived the dream when I played for Nebraska, but I'm living an even bigger dream now because I've worked 35 years at one of the most special places anyone could imagine," said Schneiss, an elementary teacher at Boys Town, as well

as an assistant coach in football and track. (In previous stints, he was the school's head baseball and head basketball coach).

"Every day is a big day when you teach and coach here," he added. "It's big for the kids, and it's big for the kids' family. We have 550 young people from all over the country, and they come in all ages, shapes and sizes."

Usually, Boys Town students begin their stay in Omaha behind both socially and academically. But people like Schneiss help them narrow the gap with love, caring, kindness and a proven system of



discipline.

"We all have the same mission – to help kids learn how to do things right, so



DAN SCHNEISS

LETTERS: 1968-70

POSITION: Fullback

CURRENT: Teacher, Coach, Boys Town, Omaha, Neb.

WIFE: Kristine

CHILDREN: Jamie (36), Chad (34), four grandchildren

they can be as successful as they can be," Schneiss said. "My wife brings me down to earth and reminds me daily how much each kid is depending on me as a role model."

Dan and Kristine Schneiss have been married since 1969. They have two children and four grandchildren. They also have two godchildren – a Native American goddaughter and an African-American godson.

Schneiss figures he benefited from a proven formula at Nebraska, and he's made it his life's work to help provide hundreds of others at Boys Town with the same opportunities he had.

The role has given him so much contentment and inner satisfaction that today, Dan Schneiss not only looks like a man who just took off his choir robe, but also sounds like someone who is both sweet and innocent.

In other words, his personality now matches his picture. **N**

Laying the groundwork

BY RICK SHAW

Although the Nebraska coaching staff only picked up one verbal commitment from the much-anticipated, spring-game weekend, it succeeded in impressing a number of other recruits holding Husker offers.

MIKE MOUDY, a 6-foot-7, 290-pound offensive tackle delivered his pledge to **BO PELINI** and his assistants before leaving campus. The big man from Castle Rock (Colo.) Douglas County became the third known Nebraska commit for the recruiting class of 2010.

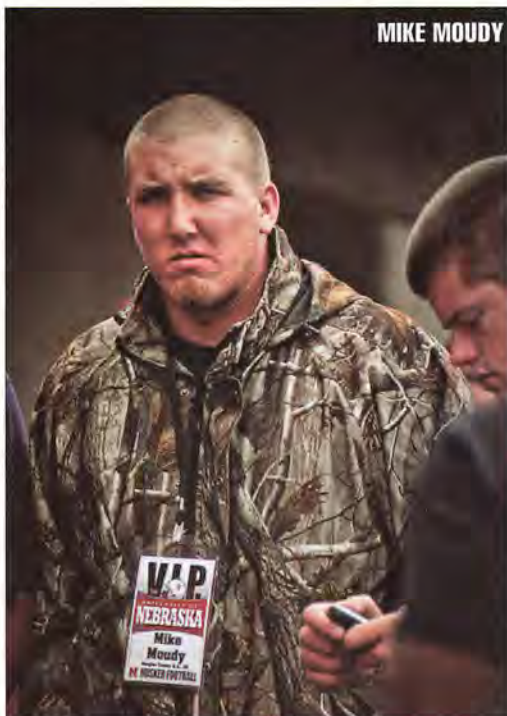
A number of other prospects left Lincoln with positive impressions of the program. Some, more than likely, will join Moudy in the Husker class over the next few months.

Liberty (Mo.) receiver **MARCUS LUCAS** (6-5, 195) was impressed with all of the fans in the stands at the Husker spring finale.

"It was packed," Lucas said, "and you definitely got a good feeling for how it would be on an actual game day. It definitely shows how people in the state admire the football team."

"There was definitely a 'wow' factor knowing that all of those people were there for a spring game. I was at Oklahoma's spring game, too, and they didn't have anywhere near the crowd that Nebraska did. It was neat to see."

Considered one of the top 250 recruits in the country (four-stars) by Rivals.com, Lucas has scholarship offers from Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma,



Stanford, UCLA and several others. Named the top receiver in the Kansas City Metro area as a junior, he tallied almost 1,200 yards on 20 receptions.

Another four-star receiver out of the Kansas City area, **KEESTON TERRY**, joined Lucas in the stands for the Husker spring event. With offers from Illinois, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Stanford and Wisconsin in addition to Nebraska, the 6-2, 180-pounder out of Blue Springs, Mo., said that the Huskers should be in the race for his commitment until the very end.

"My first trip to Nebraska for (junior day in February) sat near the top for me," Terry said. "They're in (that) top position of schools I like. They have everything I'm looking for, so they're around that top area."

"I like Nebraska, I like Missouri, I like KU...Illinois was just a recent offer, and I'm really interested in that, too. I'm kind of working to make a decision this summer or before the summer starts."

Terry, the son of former Kansas City Chief and Kansas defensive back **DOUG TERRY**, grabbed 50 catches for 900 yards and 10 scores as a junior. He was named first-team all-state as a sophomore.

Evanston (Ill.) Loyola Academy defensive end **CHANCE CARTER** said that Nebraska, Notre Dame and Stanford are the schools still in consideration for his college pledge. He said he really enjoyed building a relationship with coach Bo Pelini

and the rest of the Husker staff while in Lincoln for the spring game.

"I talked to Coach (Bo) Pelini, and he just told me who he was," Carter said. "He didn't even talk about football. He said, 'We'd like you to come here because we know you can help us get to the next level.'" He said he wants to bring discipline back to the program and not let any of his players screw around or miss class. It's more about becoming a student and person other than just a football player. He wants to establish that relationship that you can have between yourself and him for the rest of your life."

The 6-4, 235-pounder earned first-team all-state honors as a junior after registering 64 tackles, five tackles-for-loss and four

"MY NEBRASKA

fumble recoveries. He said he hopes to make a selection from among his three finalists before the end of May.

Another defensive end, **TOBI OKUYEMI** out of Plymouth (Minn.) Wayzata, was

also on hand for the Husker spring game. The 6-3, 225-pound standout said he was impressed with both the atmosphere and the coaches in Lincoln.

"I talked to coach (**BARNEY**) **COTTON**, coach (**JOHN**) **PAPUCHIS** and coach (Bo) Pelini," Okuyemi said. "It was finally good to be able to do that in person. Those coaches are great and easy to talk to. I sat in on one of the defensive meetings to get a feel for how the coaches run things, and I liked what I saw.

"As for the game, I was really surprised how many fans were there and how they treated the spring scrimmage. The atmosphere was electric. The stands were packed. I really enjoyed that."

Boasting offers from Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Vanderbilt in addition to the Huskers, Okuyemi said he doesn't anticipate closing the book on his recruitment until after his senior season. He said the Huskers, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin stand tied at the top of his list.

As a junior Okuyemi earned first-team all-conference and first-team all-metro honors from his defensive end post. He finished the 2008 slate with 58 tackles, nine sacks, 17 tackles for losses and six forced fumbles.

Denton (Texas) Guyer lineman **COLE UNDERWOOD** had one of the furthest distances to travel of all of the Husker

visit was great and it left a lasting impression with me, particularly that the coaches are such good people."

OFFENSIVE LINE PROSPECT COLE UNDERWOOD



Nebraska as a defensive end, said the trip was well worth it.

"After we got there and interacted with the coaches and met the guys, we toured all the facilities," Underwood said. "Everything is state-of-the-art. They had nice lounges and everything the players need.

"This (recruiting) is a process for me with more yet to play out, but my Nebraska visit was great and it left a lasting impression with me, particularly that the coaches are such good people."

A teammate of incoming Husker offensive line recruit **JESSE COFFEY** last season at Guyer, Underwood claims offers from Illinois, Kansas State, Mississippi State, Nebraska, Northwestern, SMU and TCU.

There were many other prospects on hand at the Nebraska spring game, some with offers and some still seeking them. Though the near sold-out stadium only brought in one immediate pledge in the form of a big lineman from Colorado, other recruits enjoyed getting a full tour of the Husker facilities and the opportunity to meet with Nebraska coaches and other members of the Big Red staff.

Given the comments offered by the athletes on-hand for the Red-White Spring Game, Moudy won't be the only visiting prospect faxing a letter of intent to Pelini next February. There will likely be more. **N**

spring-game visitors. The 6-3, 260-pound standout, who will play offensive tackle this season but is being recruited by

SIDELINES



WINDOW SHOPPING

Duke basketball point guard **GREG PAULUS** has completed his career at Duke. Now he is considering transferring to another school to play one season of football – as a quarterback. He was the Gatorade national high school football player of the year in 2005. The *Omaha World-Herald* reported that Cornhusker offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** has talked with the 6-foot-2, 180-pound Paulus.

SPRING GAME VISITOR

ROBERT MARVE was among those visiting the spring game. Nebraska is among schools the former Miami quarterback is considering. Marve, who passed with 1,293 yards and nine touchdowns with 13 interceptions last season, would have two seasons of eligibility remaining after sitting out 2009. Reportedly, Marve's list also includes Purdue, Texas Tech, Arizona State and South Florida.

Marve is expected to announce his decision in early May.

Recruiting Notebook

Rivals.com Rivals100

1

SEANTREL HENDERSON OL 6-8 301 Saint Paul (MN) Cretin-Derham Hall
The behemoth lineman is also an AAU basketball star. He has offers from Boston College, Florida, Florida State, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Oregon, UCLA, USC, Wisconsin.



2

LACHE SEASTRUNG RB 5-11 192 Temple (TX) Temple
The five-star back has run for 3,073 yards and averaged 10.2 yards per carry over the past two seasons. He holds offers from Auburn, Baylor, California, Florida, LSU, Miami, **NEBRASKA**, Oklahoma, Oregon, USC, Texas, Texas A&M and UCLA.



3

DARIUS WHITE WR 6-4 205 Fort Worth (TX) Dunbar
White averaged 26 yards per catch and added 16 TD receptions last year. He has received offers from Auburn, Florida, **NEBRASKA**, Notre Dame, Oklahoma State, Oregon, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and TCU.



4

MARCUS LATTIMORE RB 5-11 210 Duncan (SC) Byrnes
Lattimore was the MVP in the state title game after running for more than 300 yards. He has at least 16 offers, including Auburn, Georgia and Florida State.



5

MATT ELAM ATH 6-0 205 West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer
The versatile athlete ran for 431 yards, had 776 yards in receptions and recorded 91 tackles in 2008. Elam committed to Florida on Oct. 8, 2008 over Florida State, Georgia, LSU, Miami and Boston College.



RK.	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	CITY (ST) SCHOOL	[COMMITTED TO]
6	Jackson Jeffcoat	DE	6-5	230	Plano (TX) Plano West	
7	Lamarcus Joyner	DB	5-8	166	Fort Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	
8	James Hurst	OL	6-5	284	Indianapolis (IN) Plainfield	
9	Michael Dyer	RB	5-8	201	Little Rock (AR) Little Rock Christian	
10	Jeff Luc	LB	6-1	230	Port St. Lucie (FL) Treasure Coast	
11	Malcolm Jones	RB	6-0	210	Westlake Village (CA) Oaks Christian	
12	Chris Martin	LB	6-4	224	Oakland (CA) Bishop O'Dowd	[NOTRE DAME]
13	Ronald Powell	ATH	6-4	240	Moreno Valley (CA) Rancho Verde	
14	Trovon Reed	WR	6-0	173	Thibodaux (LA) Thibodaux	
15	J.R. Ferguson	DE	6-3	272	Frederick (MD) St. John's Catholic Prep	
16	Jordan Hicks	LB	6-2	210	West Chester (OH) Lakota West	
17	D.J. Morgan	RB	5-11	175	Woodland Hills (CA) Taft	[USC]
18	Kyle Prater	WR	6-5	192	Hillside (IL) Proviso West	
19	Anthony Barr	ATH	6-4	230	Torrance (CA) Loyola	
20	Reggie Wilson	DE	6-4	240	Haltom City (TX) Haltom	[TEXAS]
21	Brandon Willis	DE	6-4	250	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	
22	Khairi Fortt	LB	6-2	220	Stamford (CT) Stamford	
23	Markeith Ambles	WR	6-2	182	McDonough (GA) Henry County	
24	Corey Nelson	LB	6-0	210	Dallas (TX) Skyline	
25	Blake Bell	QB	6-6	210	Wichita (KS) Bishop Carroll	[OKLAHOMA]
26	Robert Woods	WR	6-1	180	Gardena (CA) Junipero Serra	
27	Jaylen Watkins	ATH	6-1	172	Cape Coral (FL) Cape Coral	[FLORIDA]
28	Dillon Baxter	RB	5-11	187	San Diego (CA) Mission Bay	[USC]
29	Robert Crisp	OL	6-7	299	Chapel Hill (NC) Chapel Hill	[N.C. STATE]
30	DeMarcus Milliner	DB	6-0	180	Millbrook (AL) Stanhope Elmore	
31	Alec Ogletree	DB	6-3	210	Newnan (GA) Newnan	
32	Jamel Turner	DE	6-3	210	Youngstown (OH) Ursuline	[OHIO STATE]
33	Shakim Phillips	WR	6-2	191	Wayne (NJ) De Paul Catholic	
34	Gabe King	DE	6-6	253	Greensboro (NC) Page	
35	Kelcy Quarles	DT	6-4	250	Greenwood (SC) Greenwood	[SOUTH CAROLINA]

RK.	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	CITY (ST) SCHOOL	[SCHOOL]
36	James Stone	OL	6-5	297	Nashville (TN) Maplewood	[CLEMSON]
37	Christian Green	QB	6-2	200	Tampa (FL) Tampa Catholic	
38	Martavis Bryant	WR	6-3	175	Anderson (SC) T. L. Hanna	
39	Xavier Grimble	TE	6-6	245	Las Vegas (NV) Bishop Gorman	
40	Brent Benedict	OL	6-4	278	Jacksonville (FL) Bolles	
41	Keenan Allen	ATH	6-3	195	Greensboro (NC) Northern Guilford	[FLORIDA] [TEXAS]
42	Tony Jefferson	LB	6-0	196	Chula Vista (CA) Eastlake	
43	Justin McCay	ATH	6-3	197	Shawnee (KS) Bishop Miega	
44	William Gholston	DE	6-7	237	Detroit (MI) Southeastern	
45	Damien Robinson	OL	6-7	330	Olive Branch (MS) Olive Branch	
46	Mack Brown	RB	5-11	185	Lithonia (GA) Martin Luther King	[ALABAMA] [OHIO STATE]
47	Jonathan Dowling	DB	6-3	178	Bradenton (FL) Southeast	
48	Trey Hopkins	OL	6-4	260	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	
49	Sean Parker	DB	6-0	185	Harbor City (CA) Narbonne	
50	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	DE	6-3	234	Portland (OR) David Douglas	
51	Nick Demien	OL	6-6	295	Wentzville (MO) Timberland	[FLORIDA] [TENNESSEE]
52	Phillip Sims	QB	6-0	209	Chesapeake (VA) Oscar Smith	
53	Jarrick Williams	DB	6-2	205	Prichard (AL) Blount	
54	Andrew Norwell	OL	6-7	275	Cincinnati (OH) Anderson	
55	Kaleb Eulls	DE	6-4	245	Pickens (MS) Yazoo County	
56	Jordan Allen	DE	6-6	241	West Monroe (LA) West Monroe	[LSU] [NEBRASKA]
57	Christian Thomas	TE	6-3	235	Palmdale (CA) Highland	
58	Victor Hampton	DB	5-11	170	Charlotte (NC) Independence	
59	Jacques Smith	DE	6-3	225	Ooltewah (TN) Ooltewah	
60	Alfy Hill	DE	6-4	245	Shallotte (NC) West Brunswick	
61	Chris Dunkley	WR	5-10	164	Royal Palm Beach (FL) Royal Palm Beach	[TEXAS]
62	Jake Matthews	OL	6-5	275	Missouri City (TX) Elkins	
63	Corey Lemonier	DE	6-4	223	Hialeah (FL) Hialeah	
64	Eric Reid	DB	6-3	175	Geismar (LA) Dutchtown	
65	Andrew Rodriguez	OL	6-6	298	Aurora (NE) Aurora	
66	Latwan Anderson	DB	5-11	185	Lakewood (OH) St. Edward	[TEXAS]
67	Christian Jones	LB	6-4	220	Winter Park (FL) Lake Howell	
68	Taylor Bible	DT	6-3	280	Denton (TX) Guyer	
69	Corey Brown	RB	6-0	171	Springfield (PA) Cardinal O'Hara	
70	Chris Jones	WR	6-0	172	Daingerfield (TX) Daingerfield	
71	Marquis Flowers	ATH	6-3	195	Goodyear (AZ) Millennium	[OREGON] [FLORIDA]
72	Curtis White	TE	6-5	240	Eugene (OR) Sheldon	
73	Gerald Christian	LB	6-3	220	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	
74	Garrison Smith	DE	6-4	250	Atlanta (GA) Douglass	
75	Dominic Espinosa	OL	6-3	282	Cedar Park (TX) Cedar Park	
76	Austin Hinder	QB	6-4	177	Steamboat Springs (CO) Steamboat Springs	[BOSTON COLLEGE]
77	Delvin Jones	DE	6-6	230	Miami (FL) Miami Palmetto	
78	DeAndrew White	WR	6-0	170	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	
79	Terrence Mitchell	DB	5-10	165	Tampa (FL) Hillsborough	
80	DeMarco Cobbs	ATH	6-1	198	Tulsa (OK) Tulsa Central	
81	Joe Boisture	QB	6-6	202	Saline (MI) Saline	[TEXAS]
82	Sharif Floyd	DT	6-3	294	Philadelphia (PA) George Washington	
83	Ted Meline	WR	6-2	171	Miami (FL) Booker T. Washington	
84	Fre'Shad Hunter	DE	6-5	246	Cary (NC) Cary	
85	Ivan McCartney	WR	6-3	180	Miramar (FL) Miramar	
86	Ahmad Dixon	DB	6-1	194	Waco (TX) Midway	[PENN STATE]
87	Zack McCray	DE	6-4	236	Lynchburg (VA) Brookville	
88	Paul Jones	QB	6-2	212	McKees Rocks (PA) Sto Rox	
89	Jordon James	RB	5-10	190	Corona (CA) Corona	
90	Michael Lee Harris	WR	6-0	167	Miami (FL) Northwestern	
91	Cecil Whiteside	ATH	6-3	220	Newport Beach (CA) Newport Harbor	[CALIFORNIA]
92	Pete Thomas	QB	6-5	201	El Cajon (CA) Valhalla	
93	Dyjuan Lewis	WR	6-2	186	Indianapolis (IN) Pike	
94	Spencer Ware	ATH	5-11	220	Cincinnati (OH) Princeton	
95	Joshua Reese	WR	6-1	182	Miami (FL) Miami Central	
96	Kadron Boone	WR	6-1	190	Ocala (FL) Trinity Catholic	[MICHIGAN] [TEXAS]
97	Nick Forbes	LB	6-0	223	Frederick (MD) Thomas Johnson	
98	Da'Rick Rogers	ATH	6-3	206	Calhoun (GA) Calhoun	
99	Marvin Robinson	DB	6-1	190	Eagle Lake (FL) Lake Region	
100	Aaron Benson	LB	6-2	205	Cedar Hill (TX) Cedar Hill	

Recruiting Notebook

2010 class adds new faces

by Sean Stevens

Nebraska received their first oral commitment of the 2010 recruiting class in November of 2008 when four-star offensive lineman **ANDREW RODRIGUEZ** (6-6, 298 pounds) of Aurora, Neb., made his pledge. For the first few months of 2009 one wondered if any recruits would join Rodriguez. That question was answered in early April and then again in mid-April as two more prospects joined the list.

Defensive back **ANTERIO SLOAN** (5-10, 165 pounds, 4-stars) of West Helena, Ark., was the second pledge, picking NU over Texas A&M, Kentucky, Memphis and others.

Defensive backs coach **MARVIN SANDERS** was instrumental in his decision.

"It was just the conversation with coach Sanders, I liked the whole conversation I had with him," Sloan said. "Everybody else was saying the same old things. He just came in with a whole different conversation. I mean, we hardly talked about football. It was just about getting to know each other more.

"We basically talked about our lives, what we're trying to achieve in life, what he has achieved, what he's trying to, what I'm trying to achieve and what my big goals in life were. He was focused on what I wanted to achieve in life and I liked that better."

An excellent student with a 3.4 GPA, Sloan said that he academic programs in Lincoln helped with his decision.

"They have a good pharmacy program," Sloan explained. "My mom, she's been a nurse. I just like dealing with the medicine.

My mom was real happy. She had done some research on them too. She just wanted the school to have a good pharmacy program and she saw that."

At the spring game, offensive lineman **MIKE MOUDY** (6-6, 292 pounds) of Castle Rock, Colo., became the third pledge, spurning offers from Kansas, Stanford and Northwestern among others.

"I'd been up here for my first unofficial visit a few weeks ago to look around the school," Moudy said. "When I came up here this second time and when I was sitting in my hotel room last night, my gut was just screaming that this was the place for me. I hadn't felt something like that in any other school."

As with Sloan, the NU coaches played a big part in Moudy's decision.

"I know a lot of people choose a school based on facilities, campus or location," he said, "but the main factor for me was the coaches. My decision was based on coach **(BO) PELINI**, coach **(BARNEY) COTTON**, coach **(TED) GILMORE** and the rest of the staff. They are the kind of coaches that will be able to make me the best I can be, but at the same time I'll be able to have a great relationship and bond with them."

The spring game atmosphere impressed Moudy as well.

"You had a sellout atmosphere for a spring scrimmage. I really came away from that game seeing how the fans and the coaches really push the players along and make them the best that they can be. I want to be part of that all." **N**

SIDELINES



ALMOST PLAYED

SEAN FISHER and **CAMERON MEREDITH** both made brief appearances in games early last season. But because of injuries, they were still able to redshirt and preserve the season of eligibility. Linebacker **WILL COMPTON** (pictured) came close to playing, twice, against Virginia Tech and then against Baylor.

Coach **BO PELINI** was ready to send in Compton against Baylor, but quickly changed his mind. "He's like, 'I wouldn't do that to you without talking to you and your family. It's too late in the season. It's too unfair to you,'" Compton told the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

2010 Nebraska Commitment List (3)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Andrew Rodriguez	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo.
Anterio Sloan	DB	5-10	165	West Helena, Ark.



**WIDE RECEIVER
ANTONIO BELL HAULS
IN A CATCH IN THE
SECOND QUARTER**

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

**RED 31
WHITE 17**

Putting on a "show"

Because the Red-White Spring Game is the public's lone glimpse at Nebraska football between seasons, fans and media alike sometimes jump to conclusions.

Following the Red team's 31-17 win, Cornhuskers' coach Bo Pelini cautioned against making snap judgments. After all, not all of the impressive performances witnessed by the crowd of 77,670 at Memorial Stadium will translate into success this fall.

"The evaluation really goes in the first 13 or 14 practices," Pelini said. "This is more of a show."

"The true evaluation comes in the practices, in the process that gets you to the spring game, and I saw progress and I saw a lot of things that need fixed."

However, Nebraska's annual spring game was not without its highlights:

- Zac Lee's 15-of-18 passing day for 214 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Red team prompted Pelini to say the junior-to-be is "clearly ahead" in the quarterback competition.

- Converted linebacker Latravis Washington opened some eyes as well, passing for 190 yards and two scores for the White, while highly touted incoming freshman Cody Green (a combined 8-of-15 passing for 81 yards) overcame a nervous start to display some of his talents in stints for both sides.

- Freshman wide receiver Antonio Bell produced perhaps the play of the game, leaping high to come down with a 27-yard pass from Washington.



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Junior QB Latravis Washington completed 13-of-21 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns.

- Freshman running back Collins Okafor's 33-yard TD run for the Red and redshirt freshman tight end Kyler Reed's 71-yard scoring catch from Washington also stood out.

"Hopefully everyone feels pretty good about their performances — feels like we finished spring on a good note," Lee said. "I think that's important going into the off-season, but I think we can probably take more from having a good spring overall

— not just today — and having 15 solid practices and having gotten better through all those practices."

Overall, Pelini said he was pleased heading into summer workouts.

"We got a lot accomplished this spring ball," Pelini said. "I'm happy — I'm not satisfied, but I'm happy with the progress that we've made. We've got a long way to go yet."

— by Terry Douglass

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN



Quentin Castille rushed for 39 yards on seven carries and caught another pass for 11 yards.



Wide receiver Chris Brooks makes one of his five catches.



Freshman Cody Green was 8-for-15 for 81 yards.

REPORT CARD

RUSHING:

C+

With quarterbacks wearing the green protective jerseys, the option and zone-read plays that figure to be a staple in Nebraska's offense next season, were off the table.

COLLINS OKAFOR'S 33-yard TD run for the Red late in the game was the highlight.

PASSING:

A-

After a slow start, Red quarterback **ZAC LEE** solidified his case to be the starter in the fall, going 15-of-18 passing for 214 yards and three TDs. If the Spring Game was any indication, the tight ends could play an increased role in 2009.

RUSHING DEFENSE:

B

Facing the most basic of rushing attacks, the White — led by defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** — allowed just 76 yards on 31 attempts, while the Red gave up 92 yards on the ground. NU's most experienced I-back, **QUENTIN CASTILLE**, was held to 33 yards.

PASSING DEFENSE:

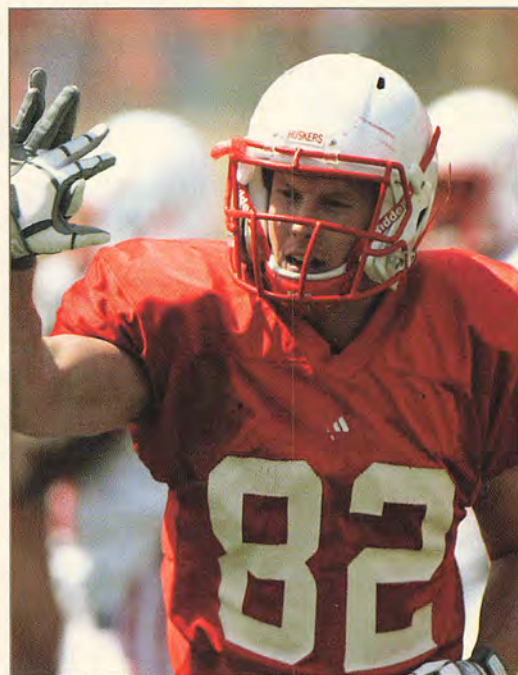
C

Playing vanilla didn't help the Husker defenders as the three quarterbacks combined to complete 66.7 percent of their pass attempts for 485 yards and five TDs with no interceptions. Both defenses recorded four "sacks" of green jersey-wearing quarterbacks.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

B-

ALEX HENERY actually missed a 50-yard field-goal attempt. However, he also hit a 40-yarder and averaged 43.2 yards on four punts. **JONATHON DAMKROGER** (47.5 yards on two punts) and **BRETT MAHER** (41.5 yards on four punts) showed well, as did **TIM MARLOWE** with a 38-yard punt return.



Senior Wes Cammack celebrates after his third quarter TD.

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON



SUH LEADS D-LINE

For young players such as sophomore defensive tackle **JARED CRICK** the spring game was an opportunity to show they're ready to step up. For veterans such as senior nose tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, it was an opportunity to show that high expectations are justified.

Suh was credited with four tackles, including two for losses and one sack. Afterward, he was asked if he was disappointed in not getting to line up on offense, too.

"No, not at all," he said. "I had fun on defense, got my snaps in and got to relax and watch some of the other guys get after the ball, which was nice."

By the fourth quarter, Suh had time to sign some autographs behind the White team bench.

Crick, who saw limited action in nine games last season, is the leading candidate

to replace **TY STEINKUHLER** alongside Suh. "In my personal opinion, as of right now, I'd probably say he'd have to be the leader," Suh said of Crick. "He's proven it, I mean, day in and day out."

LB TO QB

A year ago, **CODY GLENN** moved from I-back to linebacker during the spring. This year, **LATRAVIS WASHINGTON** moved from linebacker to quarterback, requiring an even bigger transition. "Obviously, 'Wats' (**SHAWN WATSON**) has done a great job bringing him along," coach **BO PELINI** said.

The offense was "real scaled back" for Washington, who played quarterback in high school and attended Nebraska's summer quarterback camp. "We kept it real simple for him," said Pelini.

"He's got a long, long, long way to go."

FRESHMAN JITTERS

Freshman quarterback **CODY GREEN** took snaps for both teams, and "you saw him get more comfortable as the game went on," coach **BO PELINI** said. "He was a nervous camper when that game started, and to be expected. I told him before the game, I joked with him, I said, 'You should be in high school right now.' He said, 'Oh, I'd much rather be here.'"

ALSO NEW TO THE JOB

LATRAVIS WASHINGTON's move from linebacker to quarterback was the most discussed position-switch of the spring. But there were others, among them **MARCUS MENDOZA**'s move from I-back to wide receiver and **ERIC HAGG**'s move from cornerback to safety. Hagg started 10 games last season in the nickel

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



MIKE CAPUTO & CODY GREEN

STARTING AT RIGHT GUARD . . .

Going into the spring, it appeared that either **D.J. JONES** or **RICKY HENRY**, both juniors, would be **MATT SLAUSON**'s successor at offensive right guard. But neither asserted himself, so senior **JAKE HICKMAN**, the starting center the past two seasons, spent some practice time at right guard late in the spring as well, a reflection not only of Hickman's versatility – he played tackle as a true freshman – but also of the confidence offensive line coach **BARNEY COTTON** has in sophomore center **MIKE CAPUTO**.

and dime packages and figures to be on the field most of the time in the fall.

In addition, redshirted freshman **QUENTIN TOAILOA** moved from defensive line to offensive line, while senior **DAVID HARVEY** moved from defensive end to defensive tackle and then back to defensive end.

AMONG THE MISSING

On the Monday before the spring game, redshirted freshman quarterback **KODY SPANO** suffered a knee injury. Coach **BO PELINI** expects him to be back by fall camp.

Among others held out of the spring game were I-back **ROY HELU, JR.**, linebacker **BLAKE LAWRENCE** and wide receiver **NILES PAUL**. Helu, whom coach **BO PELINI** said was looking "pretty special," was bothered by a hamstring, though had it been a regular-season

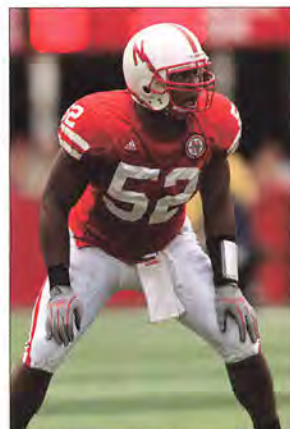
game, he would have played. Lawrence didn't play because of a concussion suffered the previous week in practice, his third concussion in 12 months. Paul was suspended for the spring game, as well as the final week of practice, because of a DUI arrest.

Offensive tackle **JAIVORIO BURKES** missed the entire spring because of an unspecified medical condition. Burkes, as well as the others, was on the sideline during the game.

TIGHT END DEPTH

Tight end is among the team's deepest positions, as reflected by the fact that tight ends combined to catch 14 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns in the spring game. "We feel real good about our tight ends, a lot of talent there, some experience, some youth," said coach **BO PELINI**.

QUICKLY



DILLARD DOWN

Senior middle linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD** has played in 33 games during his Cornhusker career, the most of anyone on the defense. But he began the spring down on the depth chart, apparently because of a weight issue, and hadn't climbed back to the top by the Red-White game.

Competition at linebacker was spirited. "There are a lot more guys in the mix," said coach **BO PELINI**. "We've got some young guys there we're trying to bring along."

Prominent among them are sophomore **MATHEW MAY**, a converted defensive back, as well as redshirted freshmen **WILL COMPTON**, **MICAH KREIKEMEIER**, **SEAN FISHER**, **ALONZO WHALEY** and **GRAHAM STODDARD**, like May a walk-on. Compton was the leading tackler in the spring game.

SUMMARY

SCORING

April 18, 2009
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 77,670

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Nebraska White	3	7	0	7	17
Nebraska Red	0	14	7	10	31

FIRST QUARTER

	WHITE	RED
WHITE Kunalic 25-yard Field Goal 03:59	3	0
Drive: 16 plays 75 yds 8:41		

SECOND QUARTER

WHITE Brooks Pass from Washington 4-yards (Kunalic Kick) 05:01	10	0
Drive: 7 plays 67 yds 3:09		
RED Mendoza Pass from Lee 21-yards (Henery Kick) 01:23	10	7
Drive: 7 plays 73 yds 3:32		
RED Cotton Pass from Lee 24-yards (Henery Kick) 00:57	10	14
Drive: 2 plays 24 yds 0:13		

THIRD QUARTER

RED Cammack Pass from Lee 40-yards (Henery Kick) 11:54	10	21
Drive: 3 plays 59 yds 1:19		

FOURTH QUARTER

RED Henery 40-yard Field Goal 14:40	10	24
Drive: 11 plays 47 yds 4:12		
RED Okafor 33-yard Run (Henery Kick) 09:50	10	31
Drive: 5 plays 59 yds 2:17		
WHITE Reed Pass from Washington 71-yards (Kunalic Kick) 07:28	17	31
Drive: 4 plays 79 yds 2:16		

TEAM STATS

	WHITE	RED
Total First Downs	13	21
Rushing	5	7
Passing	7	13
Penalty	1	1
Rushing Attempts	31	25
Yards Gained Rushing	101	125
Yards Lost Rushing	25	33
Net Yards Rushing	76	92
Net Yards Passing	197	288
Passes Attempted	24	30
Passes Completed	14	22
Had Intercepted	0	0
Percent Completion	58.3%	73.3%
Yards per Attempt	8.2	9.6
Yards per Completion	14.1	13.1
Total Offensive Plays	55	55
Total Net Yards	273	380
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.0	6.9
Fumbles: No-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties: No-Yards	3-21	4-50
Punts: No-Yards	6-261	4-173
Avg. Per Punt	43.5	43.2
Avg. Net Punt	27.5	38.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	3-21	5-96
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	6-130	4-78
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	31:59	28:01
Third-Down Conversions	6-13	0-7
Percentage	46.2%	0.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	4-27	4-23

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RED

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Okafor	11	79	0	79	7.2	1	33
Castille	7	39	6	33	4.7	0	17
Wallace	3	7	0	7	2.3	0	4
Lee	2	0	12	-12	-6.0	0	0
Green	2	0	15	-15	-7.5	0	0
Total	25	125	33	92	3.7	1	33

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lee	18	15	83.3	0	214	3	40
Green	12	7	58.3	0	74	0	13
Total	30	22	73.3	0	288	3	40

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Mendoza	3	58	1	26
Cotton	4	48	1	24
Cammack	1	40	1	40
Holt	3	37	0	18
McClure	3	34	0	13
McNeill	3	23	0	15
Martin	1	12	0	12
Castille	1	11	0	11
Legate	1	9	0	9
Gilleylen	1	8	0	8
Hyland	1	8	0	8
Total	22	288	3	40

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Marlowe	5	96	0	38
Total	5	96	0	38

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Dennard	3	63	0	29
Amukumara	1	15	0	15
Total	4	78	0	29

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	4	43.2	55	0	0	0	1	1
Total	4	43.2	55	0	0	0	1	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	2	40	0
Total	1	2	40	0

Defense	Tac	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Dean	3	2	5	1-9	1-9	0	0	0
Dennard	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Grove	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	0	4	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
May	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
O'Hanlon	0	4	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukumara	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ebke	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fisher	1	1	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Koehler	2	0	2	1-3	1-3	0	0	0
Martin	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Osborne	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Asante	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fahie	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Henery	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Martin	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McDermott	1	0	1	1-4	1-4	0	0	0
Meredith	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Yancy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
None				

WHITE

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Ward	10	53	0	53	5.3	0	14
Jones	12	38	0	38	3.2	0	6
Green	2	0	4	-4	-2.0	0	0
Washington	7	10	21	-11	-1.6	0	5
Total	31	101	25	76	2.5	0	14

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Washington	21	13	61.9	0	190	2	71
Green	3	1	33.3	0	7	0	7
Total	24	14	58.3	0	197	2	71

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Reed	1	71	1	71
Brooks	5	48	1	21
Bell	2	38	0	27
Young	3	29	0	20
Jones	2	11	0	9
Osborne	1	0	0	0
Total	14	197	2	71

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Bell	3	21	0	14
Total	3	21	0	14

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Bell	5	107	0	27
Asante	1	23	0	23
Total	6	130	0	27

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Damkroger	2	47.5	53	0	0	0	1	0
Maier	4	41.5	49	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	43.5	53	0	0	0	1	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Kunalic	1	1	25	0
Total	1	1	25	0

Defense	Tac	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Compton	4	3	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blatchford	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Blue	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuhler	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	3	1	4	1.5-10	1-8	0	0	0
Asante	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gomes	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hagg	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holt	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Klingelhoefer	2	1	3	1-6	1-6	0	0	0
Whaley	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Cassidy	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fisher	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kreikemeier	2	0	2	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Turner	0	2	2	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Anderson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Molek	1	0	1	1-9	1-9	0	0	0
Moravec	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenavse	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
West	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	1	0	1	1-4	1-4	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0



Safety Eric Hagg pulls down tight end Mike McNeill in the annual Red/White Spring Game.

PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

2009 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

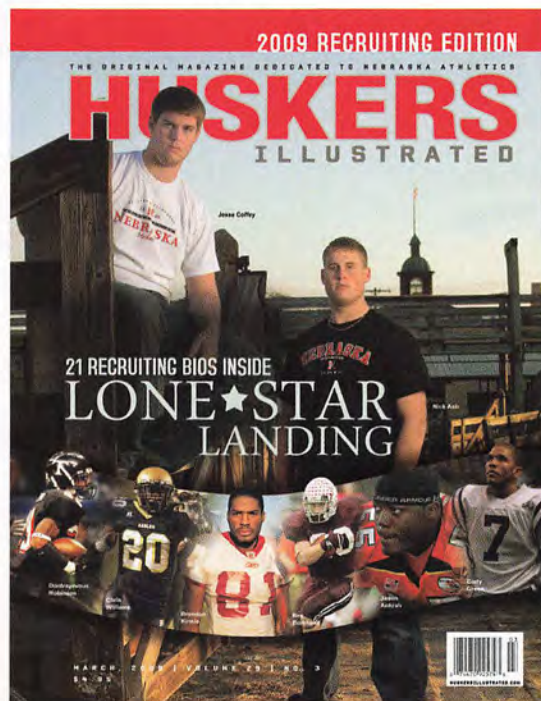
Sat., Sept. 5	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Sept. 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Sept. 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, Va.	TBA
Sat., Sept. 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur., Oct. 8	at Missouri	at Columbia, Mo.	8 p.m., ESPN
Sat., Oct. 17	Texas Tech	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 24	Iowa State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 31	at Baylor	at Waco, Texas	TBA
Sat., Nov. 7	Oklahoma	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 14	at Kansas	at Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 21	Kansas State	Memorial Stadium	TNBA
Fri., Nov. 27	Colorado	at Boulder, Colo.	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, Texas (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	TBA

FAN OF THE GAME



Brandon Heusel of Grand Island, Neb., takes a snapshot prior to the game.

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CRICK OF TIME

Jared Crick wanted to play more last season. He fully understands why he didn't.

by Brian Rosenthal

Ahead of him on Nebraska's depth chart at defensive tackle was senior Ty Steinkuhler, and alongside Steinkuhler was first-team All-Big 12 nose tackle Ndamukong Suh.

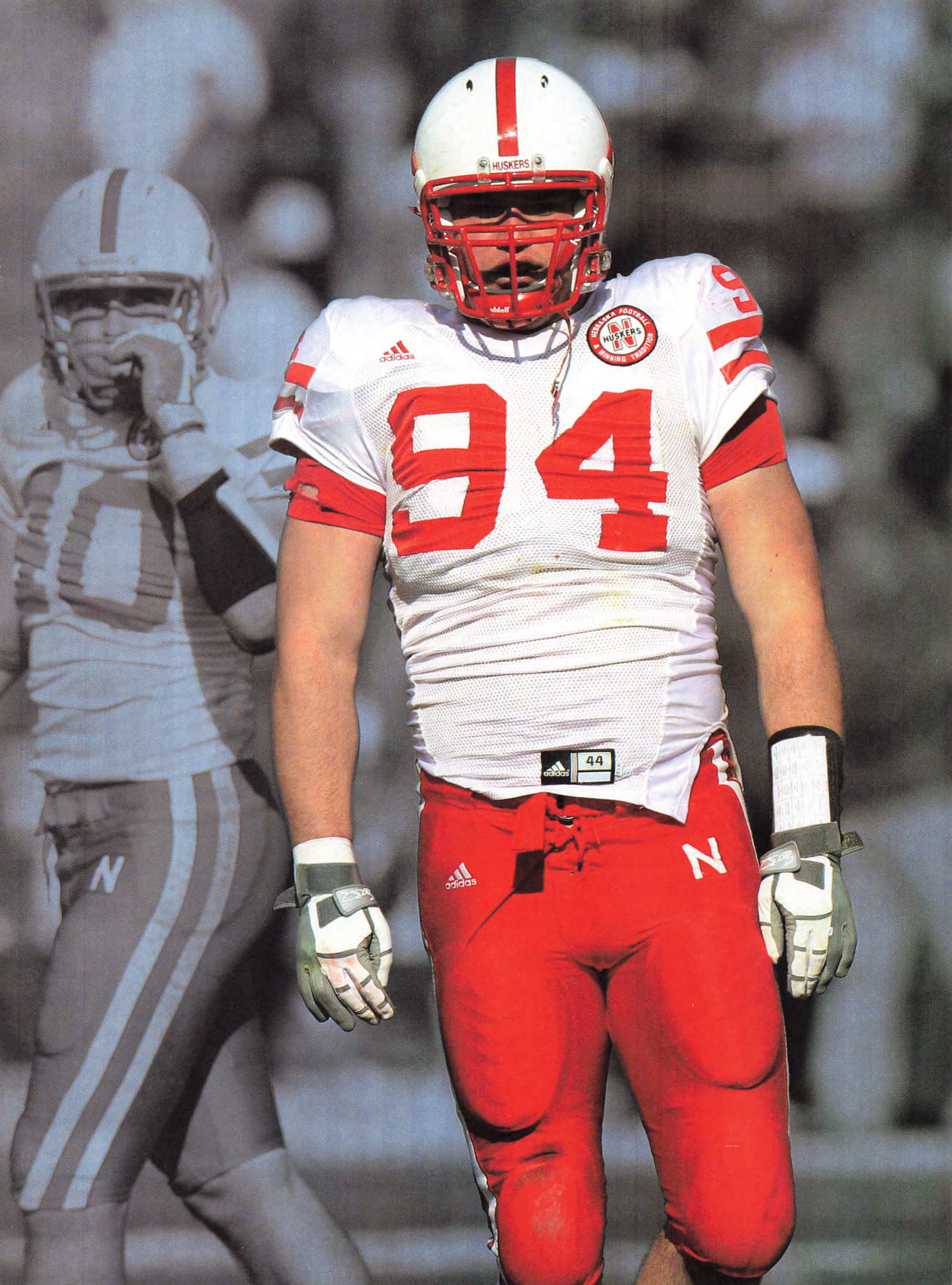
Crick was a redshirted freshman who had moved to tackle from defensive end.

"I would've liked to get a little more reps last year, but Stein and Suh, they balled out every game," said Crick, who played in nine of 13 games.

"They never really got tired. They were warriors last year. I can't blame anybody for that."

So when Steinkuhler concluded his career with a stellar performance in Nebraska's Gator Bowl game victory against Clemson – six tackles, a sack, two tackles for loss and a forced fumble – Crick saw his opportunity.

He wasted little time. No sense in waiting until spring to prove he was worthy of taking over a starting position. Crick took command during winter conditioning. Teammates noticed.



"He definitely stepped up as far as his work ethic," Suh said. "He's definitely kind of moved himself from the middle of the pack, when we're going through drills, and (now) coming toward the front and really kind of taking control."

"You could just see him stepping up, because he knew it was his time." **PIERRE ALLEN**

"When we went through skills and drills and coaches' runs, he's at the front of the line, pushing and helping other guys who are kind of struggling, which is something I respect."

Crick's reasoning for stepping up is pretty simple. If he wants to be a starter, he needs to be a leader. And leaders go 100 percent, all the time, and show other players what to do, and

how to do it.

"He just took it very serious," junior defensive end Pierre Allen said. "We had different competitions every week, and you could just see the competitiveness in him. You could just see him stepping up, because he knew it was his time."

Never mind that Crick is only a sophomore.

"Oh, anybody can be a leader. You can be a freshman and be a leader," said Crick, a 6-foot-6, 285-pound native of Cozad. "Sometimes you've got to get guys more juiced up by saying stuff, screaming maybe. It doesn't take much for a D-line to get motivated. Just a few words will get us motivated. Suh usually does all of the vocal talking, and I just try to complement him with a couple of words."

"A lot of guys were kind of bummed about

maybe not playing last year, or whatever. I try to get the young guys excited about it, as well as the older guys, try to get everybody together and excited about this year."

Winter conditioning paid off for Crick from a physical standpoint, too. He said he saw significant strength gains, gaining a couple of pounds of lean mass. He also increased his speed, something he focused on so that he could work on becoming a better pass rusher.

"I think he has a good grasp of knowing what he has to do to kind of take over that spot," Suh said. "Guys are starting to look at him, because he's going to be put in a position to where he has a chance to start."

Suh, who bypassed early entry into the NFL Draft to return for his senior season, will undoubtedly see his share of double-teams this fall. That puts more emphasis on strong



play from his defensive line teammates, particularly whoever plays tackle.

Terrence Moore, a sophomore, and redshirted freshmen Baker Steinkuhler and Justin Jackson will compete with Crick for playing time.

"A lot of guys are starting to make huge improvements," Crick said, "and it's starting to show."

Crick came to Nebraska as a defensive end. He played the position in high school and had 68 tackles (six for loss) as a senior. He redshirted his first season under former coach Bill Callahan's staff.

The position-move to defensive tackle came during the spring of 2008, the first under coach Bo Pelini and defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. When the Pelinis first asked him to change positions, Crick was hesitant. He'd always played defensive end, and figured he wouldn't know the first thing about tackle.

He obliged, but the transition wasn't smooth. At least, not at first.

"Last spring, it was a fiasco for me, moving from end to D-tackle," Crick said. "A new defense, I was playing underweight. It was just tough for me last year."

A couple of matters helped. One, Crick gained weight last summer and slowly adjusted to the speed of the game. He also credited coaches for teaching him the ins and outs

of his new position inside.

"Carl and Bo made it easy," Crick said. "They teach you from the very beginning to where I'm at now. I've still got a lot to learn yet, but I feel I came very far and made great progress."

What Crick learned the most, he said, was the importance of playing with great

technique.

"Carl and Bo both preach that, day-in and day-out," Crick said. "If you play with great technique and great aggressiveness, you'll win every time. I found that out watching Suh and Stein all last year, and a couple of times (when I got) into the game, I had great success with it."

The aggressiveness, Crick said, he learned immediately his first year at Nebraska, when he was going against future NFL pick Carl Nicks, the Huskers' starting offensive tackle.

"Those first couple of reps I had to go against him, it was a reality check. 'Hey, this is Division I.' It taught me a lot. It taught me to be really aggressive in my play," Crick said. "But I don't think my freshman year I learned much about technique, until Bo and all them got here."

Now, as Crick combines his aggressiveness and technique with his newfound leadership role, teammates are expecting a great future.

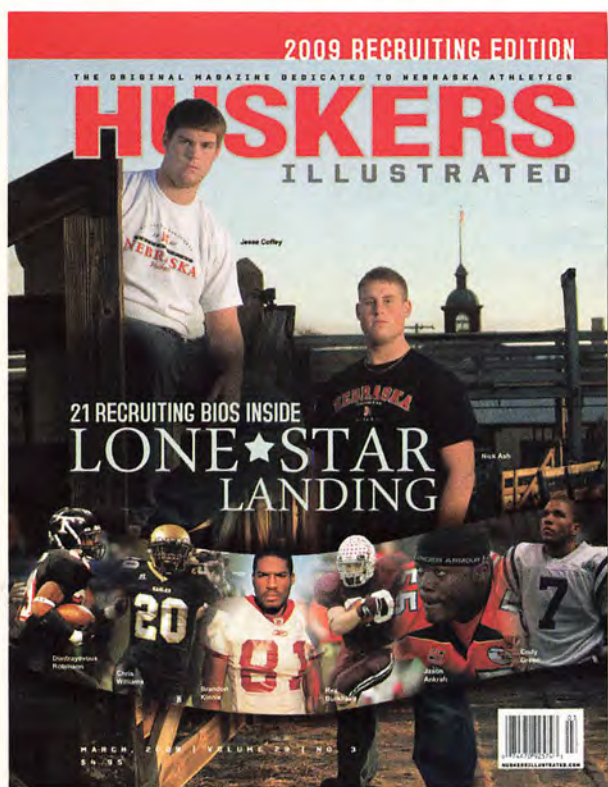
"Young player, but he's going to be great," Allen said. "Coaches love him; we all love him."



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ADAM BAILEY

BY STEVE SIPPLE

Bailey at home at the plate

In early April last year, Adam Bailey packed his bags for a baseball recruiting trip to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"I didn't know anything about Nebraska," he admits.

OK, he knew a little about the university.

"I knew it was a football school," he said. "And I knew it had the potential to be a really good baseball school."

Bailey, a 6-foot, 185-pound junior outfielder, has shown throughout this season that he can be a key cog in any success the Cornhusker program might achieve while he's on campus. A transfer from South Mountain (Ariz.) Community College, Bailey has been one of Big Red's best hitters.

Not bad for a player Nebraska basically discovered by accident.

Nebraska assistant coach Dave Bingham was scouting a pitcher at South Mountain when he noticed Bailey's prowess as a hitter. A relationship formed, and Bailey arrived in Lincoln last year during the Cornhuskers' series against Texas Tech.

They swept the series and drew 6,500-plus fans for each of the first two games.

"I fell in love with the fans and the coaches," Bailey said. "I was actually really surprised with the coaches. They were just guys you can come talk to in their office if you have problems."



They're really open about things. They keep you going."

Bailey also was extremely impressed with Hawks Field at Haymarket Park, the Cornhuskers' home base. "It's sweet," he said.

Granted, the weather wasn't ideal during his recruiting visit.

"All I know is I came from 90-degree weather in Arizona, and it was windy and cold in Lincoln that weekend," said the native of Scottsdale, Ariz. "It took me a while to get used to it. But hey, what are you going to do?"

"It still is hard. Every time someone mentions Arizona, I get kind of sad because I know it's 90 degrees there and there's no wind. It's windy every day here."

Nebraska wasn't Bailey's only option out of junior college. Oregon showed interest, as did the University of San Diego. He says San Diego has a strong reputation for academics.

Of course, so does Nebraska.

However, "I'm not going to school for school, if you know what I mean," he said. "I'm going to school for baseball."

He's very candid about his intentions. He wants to play professionally. In fact, he's been thinking about playing in the major leagues ever since his little-league days.

Not that he's always had a one-track mind. He was a standout free safety at Chaparral High School in Scottsdale, earning first-team all-state honors as a senior. He says he had good "game speed" on the gridiron but was undersized for the next level.

"Plus, I tackled with my head," he said. "I got three concussions. I loved hitting people."

Make no mistake, his first love was hitting a baseball.

Bailey started this season on fire. Eighteen games into the schedule, he was on pace to hit a single-season school record 26 home runs and drive in 86 runs.

He has tailed off some.

"You heard me say from the very beginning that he's going to be streaky," Nebraska coach Mike Anderson said. "He's streaky because he has a tendency to float in and out of certain mechanics, and at the beginning of the year he was very, very disciplined with his foundation."

Some would suggest Bailey was bound to struggle at some point in his first year facing Big 12 pitching. He bristles at that

2009 BASEBALL SCHEDULE (18-21-1, 4-14 Big 12)

2/20	at Louisiana-Lafayette, 4-3 (W) 15 inn.
2/21	at Louisiana-Lafayette, 9-8 (W)
2/21	at Louisiana-Lafayette, 1-2 (L)
2/22	at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5-5 (T)
2/25	North Dakota, 10-6 (W)
2/27	vs. Missouri State, 14-12 (W)
2/28	vs. St. Mary's, 5-7 (L) 10
2/28	at Sam Houston State, 8-1 (W)
3/1	vs. Missouri State, 2-3 (L)
3/4	South Dakota State, 11-2 (W)
3/6	Cal State Northridge, 9-3 (W)
3/7	Cal State Northridge (DH), 11-5 (W)
3/7	Cal State Northridge (DH), 12-6 (W)
3/8	Cal State Northridge, 8-2 (W)
3/14	at Texas Tech, 8-16 (L)
3/14	at Texas Tech, 10-1 (W)
3/15	at Texas Tech, 3-10 (L)
3/17	at Arkansas, 3-7 (L)
3/18	at Arkansas, 7-4 (W)
3/20	Oklahoma State, 11-4 (W)
3/21	Oklahoma State, 12-4 (W)
3/22	Oklahoma State, 3-6 (L)
3/24	Northern Colorado, 14-13 (W)
3/25	Northern Colorado, 7-10 (L)
3/29	at Oklahoma, 9-12 (L)
3/30	at Oklahoma, 11-9 (W)
3/31	at Oklahoma, 6-15 (L)
3/31	at Wichita State, 7-9 (L)
4/3	Kansas State, 1-15 (L)
4/4	Kansas State, 3-9 (L)
4/5	Kansas State, 3-5 (L)
4/7	Creighton, 0-15 (L)
4/10	Texas, 5-7 (L)
4/10	Texas, 7-11 (L)
4/11	Texas, 2-9 (L)
4/14	Iowa, 8-5 (W)
4/17	at Texas A&M, 2-8 (L)
4/18	at Texas A&M, 1-10 (L)
4/19	at Texas A&M, 1-10 (L)
4/21	at Creighton, 4-3 (W), 12 inn.
4/24	at Kansas, 6 p.m.
4/25	at Kansas, 6 p.m.
4/26	at Kansas, 1 p.m.
4/28	New Mexico, 6:05 p.m.
4/29	New Mexico, 1:35 p.m.
5/1	Missouri, 6:05 p.m.
5/2	Missouri, 2:05 p.m.
5/3	Missouri, 1:05 p.m.
5/8	Cal State Bakersfield, 6:05 p.m.
5/9	Cal State Bakersfield, 2:05 p.m.
5/10	Cal State Bakersfield, 1:05 p.m.
5/12	Creighton, 7 p.m.
5/15	Baylor, 6:05 p.m.
5/16	Baylor, 2:05 p.m.
5/17	Baylor, 1:05 p.m.
5/20-24	at Big 12 Championship
5/29-6/1	at NCAA Regionals
6/5-8	at NCAA Super Regionals
6/13-24	at NCAA College World Series

suggestion.

"A lot of this sport's mental," he said. "I would have to say a player's mentally weak if he thinks he's automatically going to tail off. It's all up to you."

That said, he admits his legs are tired.

"But you know what, I thought the (grind of the season) would be way worse than this," he said.

Bailey began his college career in 2007 at Arizona State after the Sun Devils recruited him as an outfielder. A left-handed thrower, he possesses a strong arm.

"Three weeks into it, the ASU coaches put me on the mound," he said. "I was a freshman, so I said, 'I'll do anything for the team. I'll pitch, whatever.' Turns out, they took the bat out of my hands and said you're going to be a pitcher from now on. I was like, 'OK, that's fine.'"

However, being a pitcher -- and not hitting at all -- wasn't fine with Bailey, and he made it clear to the Arizona State coaching staff that he wanted to both pitch and hit.

"As long as I have a stick in my hand, I'll be happy," he said.

The Arizona State coaches told Bailey if he wanted to keep hitting, he would have to do it at another school. So, he transferred to South Mountain Community College. By doing so, he didn't have to sit out a season.

"I did not want to redshirt," he said. "I wanted to keep playing and not lose a year."

At South Mountain, he hit .400 with 21 doubles while also posting four saves and a 1.16 earned-run average.

Even so, he's never really considered himself a pitcher. Oh, his fastball has been clocked at 90 mph and he has a decent changeup. But his control is an issue. Working in a relief role early this season for the Huskers, he walked 15 in 9.2 innings.

Bottom line, Bailey wants to hit. To that end, he appreciates his opportunity at Nebraska. **N**

JULIE BRECHTEL

BY TONY BOONE

Brechtel finds stroke, swings for .400

Julie Brechtel is an honor-roll student with an artistic gift. She doesn't talk about it with others. In fact, the sophomore from Fullerton, Calif., shied away when asked about her ability.

"It's kind of my hidden talent," she said. "I really love to draw and paint, but no one really knows. If you'd see my notebooks, they're littered with little drawings."

Brechtel, who reluctantly admitted to having a habit of sketching her own shoes during classes, has created a showpiece this spring. It's not on paper or canvas, yet it has taken a smooth stroke to carry out. For more than a month, she put on one of the top hitting displays in recent Nebraska softball history. The second-year infielder hit .431 over a 24-game stretch to become only the third Husker in a decade to carry a batting average of .400 or better into April.

Ironically, her surge started one game after she was taken out of the lineup. Brechtel, who started 51 times as a freshman in 2008, played in the field against Penn State on Feb. 27 but didn't bat after opening the season 5 for 21 at the plate.

She returned, however, in Nebraska's next game against North Dakota and hit her first career home run in her first at-bat. From then until early



April seemingly every swing Brechtel took resulted in a base hit. She reached safely in 22-of-24 games during her hot streak.

"It's a crazy part of the sport," she said. "It definitely was like that for me. I was seeing the ball really well. It just felt like I couldn't be beat. It was just a little spark that got me going. It was a fun run."

Confidence, she said, has been the key to her improvement at the plate. Brechtel hit only .220 as a freshman and went hitless in the final eight games of the regular season. This year, she hasn't allowed such a slump to develop, although a four-game slide before Easter may have cost her the opportunity to become the first Husker to hit .400 for a season since Ali Viola in 1998.

That 0-for-13 skid didn't shake Nebraska coach Rhonda Revelle's faith in her sophomore star. In fact, she still bumped Brechtel, whom she called "a tough out," to the third spot in the order for a crucial home series against nationally-ranked Texas. She had been batting sixth.

"The biggest thing for Julie was trusting that she was really ready and prepared to play at this level," Revelle said. "She's always been a hard worker. But I think now she realizes she's going to impact games. She's just made a decision that 'I can do this.'"

Brechtel came to Nebraska following an outstanding prep career in Southern California, where she starred for Sunny Hill High School as well as the Orange County Batbusters and Corona Angels. She was thrust into the Husker lineup immediately upon her arrival in Lincoln and was selected by the coaches as the team's defensive player of the year as a freshman.

It took her a while to feel comfortable in the situation. But she said the struggles she endured during her first season at Nebraska have paid dividends this season.

"As a freshman, it was definitely a learning experience," she said. "You're just learning the ropes. But being thrown in there was definitely a good experience to help me for this year. It's amazing how far I've come. It's a complete 180. Everything's different."

2009 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE (31-14, 7-7 Big 12)

2/7	vs. Dayton, 10-0 (W) (5)
2/7	vs. North Dakota, 11-1 (W)
2/8	vs. South Dakota State, 11-2 (W) (6)
2/8	at Northern Iowa, 2-1 (W)
2/20	vs. UNLV, 9-1 (W) (5)
2/20	vs. Cal State Fullerton, 2-4 (L)
2/21	vs. Oregon, 3-1 (W)
2/22	vs. Northwestern, 4-5 (L)
2/22	vs. Washington, 0-6 (L)
2/27	vs. Massachusetts, 0-3 (L)
2/27	vs. Penn State, PPD
2/28	vs. Long Island, Cancelled
2/28	vs. Penn State, 5-2 (W)
2/28	vs. South Carolina, Cancelled
3/1	vs. DePaul, Cancelled
3/7	vs. North Dakota, 9-1 (W) (5)
3/7	at Wichita State, 12-4 (W)
3/8	vs. North Dakota, 9-1 (W) (6)
3/8	at Wichita State, 8-1 (W)
3/12	at Pacific, 2-1 (W)
3/12	vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 2-0 (W)
3/13	vs. Arizona State, 6-11 (L)
3/14	vs. New Mexico, 3-0 (W)
3/15	vs. Penn State, 10-1 (W) (5)
3/17	North Dakota State (DH), 2-1 (W) (9)
3/17	North Dakota State (DH), 3-2 (W) (10)
3/18	South Dakota (DH), 10-2 (W) (5)
3/18	South Dakota (DH), 5-2 (W)
3/21	at Texas A&M, 1-2 (L)
3/22	at Texas A&M, 3-2 (W) (9)
3/24	South Dakota State (DH), 8-0 (W) (5)
3/24	South Dakota State (DH), 8-0 (W) (5)
3/25	Drake (DH), 5-2 (W)
3/25	Drake (DH), 7-4 (W)
3/28	Oklahoma State, PPD
3/29	Oklahoma State (DH), 6-3 (W)
3/29	Oklahoma State (DH), 0-2 (L)
4/1	Creighton, 0-3 (L)
4/4	Oklahoma, 2-3 (L) (8)
4/5	Oklahoma, 2-3 (L)
4/8	at Kansas (DH), 4-0 (W)
4/8	at Kansas (DH), 1-2 (L)
4/10	Texas, 2-1 (W)
4/11	Texas, 5-2 (W)
4/14	at Iowa State, 10-0 (W) (5)
4/16	Iowa State, 3-4 (L)
4/18	at Baylor, 3-4 (L) (10)
4/19	at Baylor, 1-0 (W)
4/21	North Dakota (DH), Cancelled
4/22	Northern Iowa, 7-2 (W)
4/22	Northern Iowa, 3-6 (L)
4/25	Texas Tech, 2 p.m.
4/26	Texas Tech, Noon
4/28	at Creighton, 6 p.m.
5/2	at Missouri, 2 p.m.
5/3	at Missouri, Noon
5/8-10	at Big 12 Championship
5/15-17	at NCAA Regional
5/22-24	NCAA Super Regional
5/29-6/5	Women's College World Series

TOUGH LOSSES

Although it has proven that it will be a tough draw when the Big 12 Tournament comes around, Nebraska is still kicking itself for a number of close defeats in conference play. A run here or there could've put the Huskers near the top of the league standings entering the final weeks of the season.

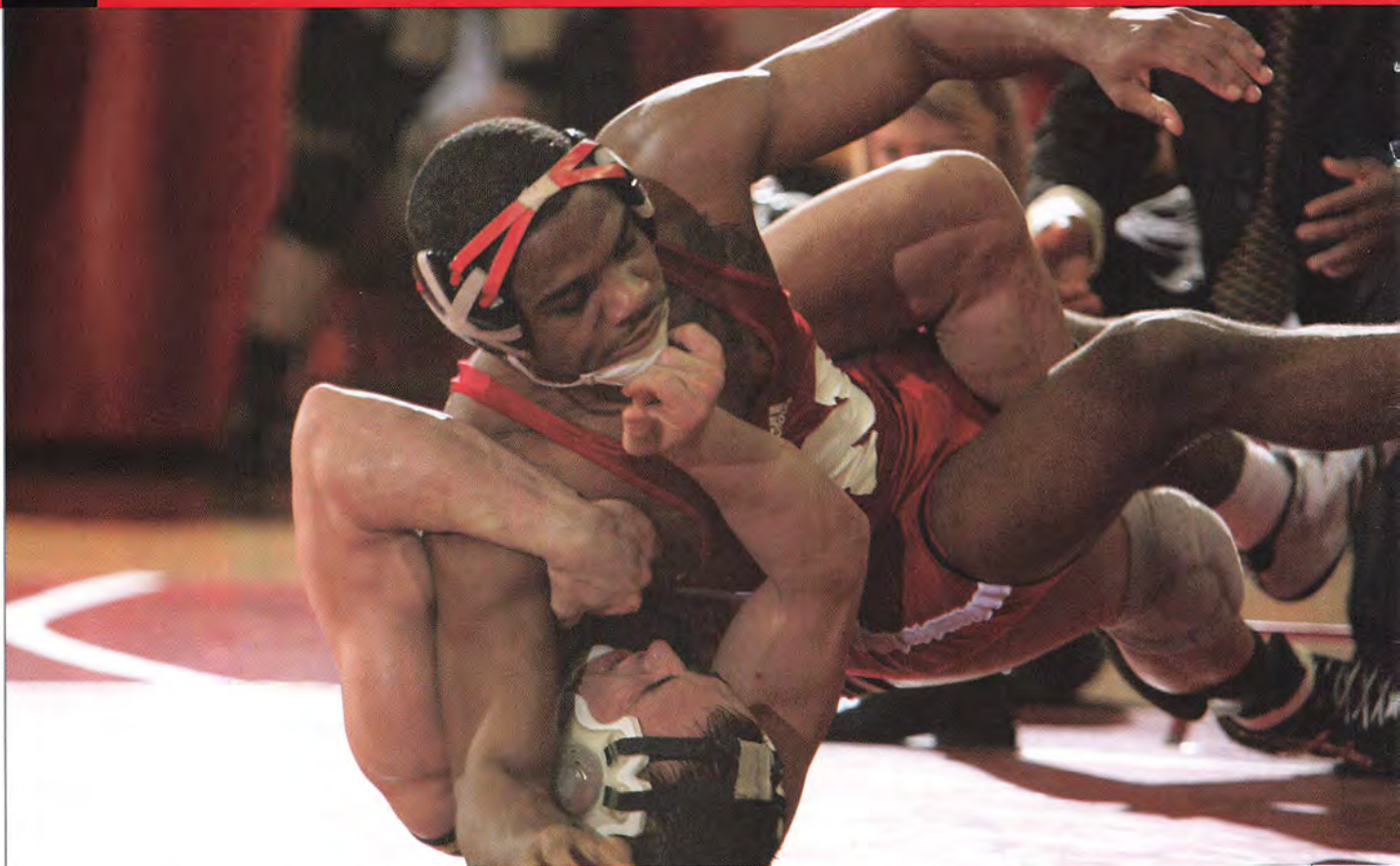
"On one hand, you feel like you've made a lot of progress," said Revelle, whose team finished tied for ninth a year ago. "But on the other hand, you're frustrated because you're right there. You just have to keep chipping, keep throwing punches. One day we'll land one."

A two-game sweep of then-No. 20 Texas at Bowlin Stadium on Easter weekend pulled the Huskers to within striking distance of the league leaders with some key contests still left on their schedule. "Every game is kind of like a playoff game right now," Revelle said. "That's how we have to treat it. They are really pretty important and critical at this stage of the game."

HILL JOINS ELITE GROUP

Although it came in a losing effort, senior Molly Hill became only the fifth Husker pitcher to register 100 career decisions. While suffering a 3-2 loss to No. 12 Oklahoma, the right-hander from Wayne joined former Husker stars Jenny Voss, Leigh Ann Walker, Peaches James and Ashley DeBuhr on the short list. As the season progressed, Hill continued to crawl up a number of Nebraska's all-time pitching charts. She set the school record for single-season winning percentage as a freshman in 2006 and led the Big 12 in ERA as a sophomore before battling through a knee injury last year. **N**

Around the Horn



WRESTLING Burroughs completes perfect season

BY TOMMY DAHLK

As difficult as it may seem, Nebraska wrestler **JORDAN BURROUGHS** thinks he can top his junior season a year from now.

How exactly?

Yes, it will be pretty tough since Burroughs had the best season in Nebraska wrestling history. During his junior season, he went a perfect 35-0 and won the NCAA championship in the 157-pound weight class.

No Husker ever went through a season undefeated before Burroughs.

The undefeated record was a goal

of Burroughs at the beginning of the season, but he started to think about it a little more as the wins started piling up.

"As the season went along and I beat a couple of tough guys and got to around 20-0, I realized I was going to finish the season undefeated," Burroughs said.

He also defeated 13 opponents ranked in the top 10 nationally. After finishing third at nationals last season, Burroughs came into this season thinking anything lower than a national championship would be a huge disappointment.

Head coach Mark Manning said Burroughs improved greatly last summer and said the undefeated season is a testament to his hard work and focus.

"It is really a tough feat to complete," Manning said. "There is always a target on you. You always have to give your best effort and be consistent."

Next year, Burroughs hopes to become the first Husker to ever win two national championships and go undefeated again. He also hopes to win the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award at the NCAA meet.

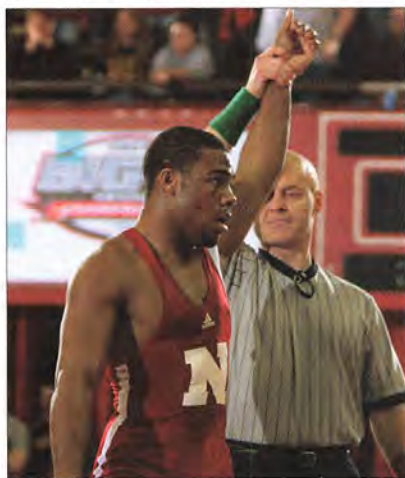
Burroughs still knows he has some work to do in order to accomplish those goals.

"I know I have to work on some different techniques," he said. "I think I only got one turn from the top this year, so I definitely want to work on that and make matches easier on myself so I won't need as many takedowns."

But he can't fully control one thing that will make his senior season even better – an NCAA team championship.

After consecutive fourth-place finishes for the Huskers, Burroughs likes their chances next season and thinks a team title would be the perfect end to his college career.

"I think we can do it," he said. "We have a lot of lot of young guys that are eager and hungry to get in that lineup and help us out in the team race." **N**



HUSKER QUICK HITS



NATIONAL TITLE

The Nebraska women's bowling team won its eighth NCAA championship at Canton, Mich., in early April. Three All-Americans led the way: junior **CASSANDRA LEUTHOLD** from Rapid City, S.D., and freshmen **VALERIE CALBERRY** from Toronto and **DANIELLE VAN DER MEER** from Amsterdam.

Nebraska also has two NCAA men's bowling championships, in 1990 and 1996. But the Cornhuskers no longer have a men's bowling team.

The success likely will continue, and not only because the three All-Americans return. Coach **BILL STRAUB** has a signed letter of intent from **SHALIMA ZALSHA**, a three-time Indonesian national high school champion in Jakarta.

HELLO, AND GOOD-BYE

QUINCY HANKINS and **LANCE JETER**, teammates at Polk (Fla.) Community College, will play for Nebraska next basketball season. The two committed to the Cornhuskers in early April.

Hankins, a 6-foot-8, 240-pound forward, averaged 16.1 points and 12.2 rebounds last season, while Jeter, a 6-3, 230-point point guard, averaged 15.6 points and 4.6 assists.

A week later, sophomore point guard **COOKIE MILLER** and redshirted freshman forward **ALONZO EDWARDS** announced that they were leaving coach **DOC SADLER**'s program, Miller in order to be closer to family in Charleston, W. Va., Edwards in hopes of seeing more playing time.

Miller started 46 games in his two seasons at Nebraska, averaging 6.7 points and 3.6 assists. Edwards saw limited action in 16 games after a redshirt season.

Nebraska is at the NCAA limit of 13 scholarship players for next season.

JACK MOORE AWARD

Senior walk-on **PAUL VELANDER** received the Jack Moore Award at the Nebraska men's basketball team's annual year-end banquet in mid-April. The award is given to the team's most valuable player. Velandar shot 40 percent from 3-point range, hitting 60, to rank among the Big 12 leaders. He also was credited with taking 60 charges, half of the team's total.

The other seniors honored at the banquet were **ADE DAGUNDURO**, the team's leading scorer (12.8 ppg); **STEVE HARLEY** and **NICK KRENK**, like Velandar a walk-on.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES



MIGHTY MINNESOTA - Nebraska defenders pursue a Minnesota ball carrier at Memorial Stadium in the 1930s, possibly 1935, when the Golden Gophers defeated coach **D.X. BIBLE's** team 12-7 before a capacity crowd of 35,000. Also, "two coast-to-coast chains broadcasted the thrilling battle," according to the student yearbook. Nebraska has played Minnesota more than any other non-conference opponent, including Iowa. The Cornhuskers and Gophers played each other on a regular basis from their first game in 1900 through 1974, with the exception of a 20-year hiatus following Nebraska's 7-0 victory in 1913 - only its second against Minnesota. The Cornhuskers have won the last 14 games in the series, most recently 56-0 in 1990. However, Minnesota still leads the all-time series 29-20-2.

GAMES REMEMBERED

Oct. 15, 1988 at Memorial Stadium



On Nebraska's first play from scrimmage, I-back **KEN CLARK**, broke off a block by left guard **ANDY KEELER** and ran 73 yards for a touchdown. **CHRIS DRENNAN** added the extra point. And the No. 7-ranked Cornhuskers led undefeated and No. 10 Oklahoma State 7-0.

Barely a minute had elapsed on the game clock.

Oklahoma State responded by driving to the Nebraska 27-yard line, from where Clark had begun his touchdown

run. The Cowboys lined up third-down-and-5.

Quarterback **MIKE GUNDY's** pass, intended for **HART LEE DYKES**, was tipped by strong safety **REGGIE COOPER** and intercepted by cornerback **CHARLES FRYAR**, who returned the ball 86 yards for a touchdown. Drennan added the extra point. And the Cornhuskers led 14-0.

Less than 4 minutes had elapsed on the game clock.

Four plays into Oklahoma State's next possession, Nebraska's back-up strong safety **MARK BLAZEK** intercepted a Gundy pass at the Cornhusker 20-yard line.

Clark gained 33 yards. Wingback **RICHARD BELL** gained 38 yards on a reverse. And Clark carried again for 9 yards and another touchdown. Drennan added the extra point.

The score was 21-0, with 9:16 remaining in the first quarter.

The Cornhuskers' scoring explosion continued. By quarter's end, they had run only 12 plays from scrimmage but led coach **PAT**

Nebraska 63, Oklahoma State 42

Oklahoma State	0	21	7	14	-	42
Nebraska	35	14	7	7	-	63

(N) Ken Clark 73 run (Chris Drennan kick)
 (N) Charles Fryar 86 interception return (Drennan kick)
 (N) Clark 9 run (Drennan kick)
 (N) Steve Taylor 60 run (Drennan kick)
 (N) Taylor 43 run (Drennan kick)
 (N) Clark 2 run (Drennan kick)
 (OS) Barry Sanders 9 run (Cary Blanchard kick)
 (OS) Sanders 1 run (Blanchard kick)
 (N) Todd Millikan 32 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
 (OS) Hart Lee Dykes 12 pass Mike Gundy (Blanchard kick)
 (N) Millikan 13 pass Taylor (Drennan kick)
 (OS) Sanders 1 run (Blanchard kick)
 (N) Taylor 9 run (Gregg Barrios kick)
 (OS) Sanders 4 run (Blanchard kick)
 (OS) Mitch Nash 20 pass Gundy (Blanchard kick)

Attendance: 76,432

JONES' stunned team 35-0.

They opened the second quarter with a seven-play, 68-yard touchdown drive, finished by Clark's 2-yard touchdown run, to go up 42-0 before the Cowboys finally scored.

As it turned out, the 42 points wouldn't have been enough to win. Oklahoma State never quit. **BARRY SANDERS**, the Heisman Trophy winner that season, rushed for 189 yards and four touchdowns, and Gundy passed for 247 yards and two touchdowns.

TOM OSBORNE: "That was kind of a hard one to figure. We obviously thought their offense was the strongest part of their football team, so we knew we were going to have to score a lot of points. But I didn't think that many."

DID YOU KNOW? Clark had 185 rushing yards at halftime and 256 for the game, on 27 carries. Oklahoma State finished the season ranked first in the nation in scoring offense (47.5) and second in total offense (515.2). Sanders ran away with the Heisman. He had more than twice as many votes as USC quarterback **RODNEY PEETE**, the runner-up. UCLA quarterback **TROY AIKMAN** finished third. Defensive players **DEION SANDERS** of Florida State and **DERRICK THOMAS** of Alabama also finished among the Top 10 in voting.

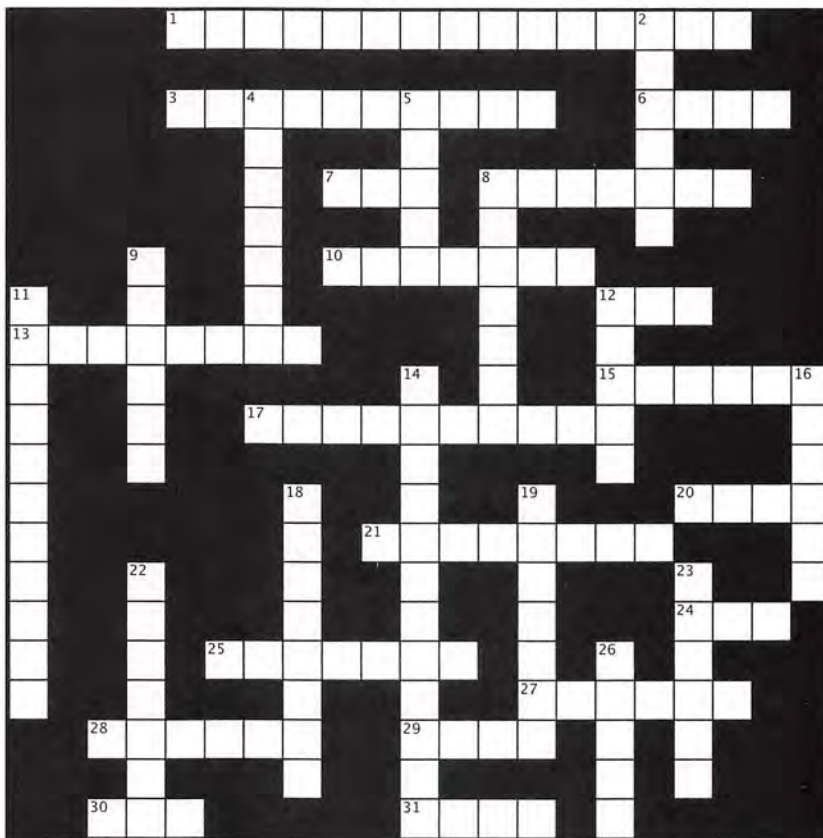
CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

1. Opponent in 2009 opener
3. 2010 non-conference road opponent
6. Had 71-yard touchdown reception in Spring Game
7. Wears No. 3 (offense)
8. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
10. I-back who moved to wide receiver
12. All-Big 12 defensive tackle
13. Wears No. 3 (defense)
15. 2008 leader in solo tackles
17. Converted to quarterback in the spring
20. Wears No. 2
21. Opponent in 2009 Big 12 opener
24. Winning team in Spring Game
25. Most experienced returning starter on offense
27. Leading rusher in Spring Game 28. Defensive line coach
29. Network for NU-Missouri telecast
30. Bo Pelini's former school
31. I-back who missed Spring Game

DOWN

2. Defensive end who missed 2008 season
4. 1992 Outland Trophy winner
5. Quarterback who joined program in January
8. 2011 non-conference road opponent
9. Big 12's most accurate place-kicker in 2008
11. Redshirt freshman defensive tackle
12. Quarterback who missed Spring Game
14. Non-conference road opponent in 2009
16. Linebacker coach
18. Defensive ends coach
19. Leading tackler in Spring Game
22. Defensive backs coach
23. Scored first touchdown in Spring Game
26. NU's bowl game after last season



Answers will appear in the June/July issue

HUSKERNUTZ



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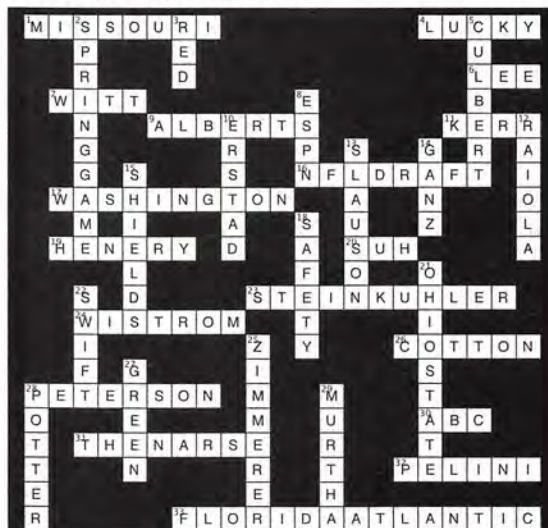
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THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Lee's top competition comes off the field

ZAC LEE MIGHT be described as an undergraduate assistant coach: Coach Lee.

Such a designation would be appropriate to all of Nebraska's quarterbacks, according to offensive coordinator Shawn Watson. But the title fits Lee, in particular, because he tops the list.

The quarterback "becomes an assistant coach," Watson said. "He actually takes our ideas and he implements them on the field. We try to streamline our thinking, our teaching and his thinking, so that it can be fast, it can be processed quickly; (we) try to make it easy, in other words."

Lee is motivated by the opportunity to succeed Joe Ganz, of course. And it was apparent going into the spring that the job was his to lose, especially after Patrick Witt's surprise departure.

Ostensibly, that left a redshirted freshman, a true freshman and a converted linebacker as Lee's competition. However, there was a fourth to consider: Coach Watson.

"I told him, 'I'm your competition. You've got to let me push you. You've got to want to be coached because if you won't let me push you, you're not going to get to where you need to go, and we're not going to have the guy we need,'" said Watson.

The guy Nebraska needs at quarterback should be able to run. Ganz showed the value of that.

Lee can run, though that wasn't evident during the spring game because he and

the other quarterbacks wore green, no-contact jerseys. Even so, "I was expecting (Ndamukong) Suh to maybe pick me up and throw me down, just because that's Suh," Lee said, jokingly, afterward.

Suh had such an opportunity on the Red team's second series, when he broke through the line and was credited with a sack, for an 8-yard loss, by simply touching Lee.

Lee called the sack "phantom," again in jest. Better safe than sorry.

In any case, even though he couldn't show it during the spring game, Lee can run, coach Bo Pelini said on the Big 12 coaches' spring teleconference. "He's very athletic. Obviously, I think he can add an element there. I mean, Joe (Ganz) also showed that he could run last year, but I think Zac is maybe a little bit faster. Hopefully, it will just make us that much more multiple."

Ganz rushed for a net of 258 yards, averaging just 2.8 yards per carry. But in addition to the threat of options, he could avoid sacks. The defense couldn't ignore the possibility of his keeping the ball and taking off, as evidenced by a 33-yard touchdown run against New Mexico State.

Lee has a strong arm, as the spring game showed, and he has a presence in the huddle, according to senior wide receiver Chris Brooks. "I think we respect him and we know what we're getting," Brooks said. "We're getting a tough guy, a

guy that's going to fight, who's not going to quit, and I think that's what we love about him. We'll rally behind him, and that's everyone on our team."

Lee, like Ganz, seems comfortable with the attention. He's certainly comfortable around reporters, also like Ganz. And he went into the spring acknowledging that he would have to earn the respect of his teammates, the way Ganz did over four years before finally getting his chance.

Though Lee comes across as soft-spoken, "he'll get in the locker room and he'll make some noise," said Brooks. "I think that's what we like. When he speaks, guys listen up, oh yeah."

"He's a mature guy, and he knows when it's time to go."

Lee's first time to go for real is Sept. 5, when Florida Atlantic visits Memorial Stadium. Between now and then he has a lot more to learn about Nebraska's offense. And he knows that.

Brooks, who also was down on the depth chart, has seen a change in Lee. "He's ready for the fall. When he was taking reps last year, you could see the indecision in him. But now he's getting more reps, and he's developing into a great quarterback. He really is," Brooks said.

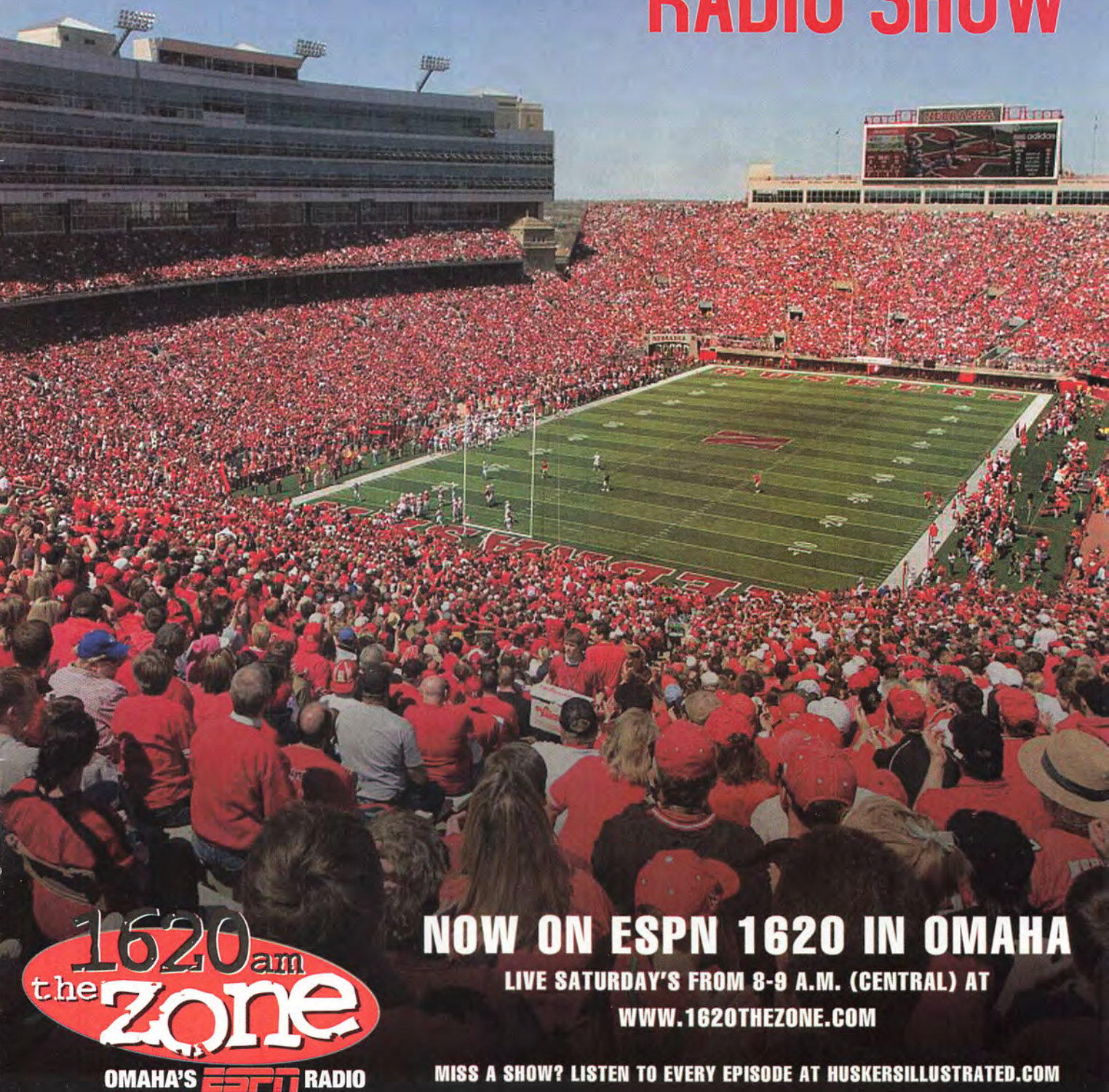
"He's taken to coaching really well."

In other words, Lee – Coach Lee, if you will – is a reflection of his position coach, Watson, who told him at the start: "Trust me, I love you or I wouldn't be pushing you." **N**

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